



## GLASGOW LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE LIMITED

13<sup>th</sup> January 2023

### To All GPs and GP Practices

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2023. The period since Christmas has been extremely busy in practices in GGC. One GP contacted the LMC reporting that they dealt with over 100 patient contacts in one day and it was their busiest day in over 25 years in general practice. This is a huge number and we hope that GPs do not feel that numbers such as these are becoming the norm.

The LMC issued a joint letter with the health board on 29<sup>th</sup> December acknowledging the pressures being seen in practices, and reminding practices of the flexibilities that they have within the escalation framework to allow them to prioritise their workloads. The updated escalation framework is available for practices to consider utilising, if they feel it is necessary.

### MSP Letter

The LMC wrote to all of the MSPs covering GGC on 5<sup>th</sup> January. This outlined the pressures being faced by practices in GGC and sadly the reports of abuse that some GPs and practice teams are facing.

Our Medical Director Dr Patricia Moultrie attended a health summit on 11<sup>th</sup> January at the Scottish Parliament, along with a number of other clinicians, about the challenges being faced by the whole of the NHS. Our thanks to the Scottish Labour MSPs for organising this and for hearing our call for increased focus on strong primary care within Scotland's NHS.

### Extended Hours

At the December LMC meeting, the requirements around the Extended Hours DES was raised by a committee member in light of the significant workload challenges being faced by practices. The LMC quickly discussed this with the board and as a result, a suspension of the requirements on this enhanced service was agreed to for four weeks, as per the letter that was issued to practices on 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

### Saturday Opening

The issue of GP practices opening on Saturdays has been in the media recently. The LMC does not support any proposals for practices to be asked to open on Saturdays. GPs and their practice teams are already dealing with huge workload pressures and we would be concerned for their wellbeing, should there be such an ask of practices. We are hopeful that no such ask will be made of practices in GGC.

This formed part of an interview that Dr John Ip recently did with [HealthandCare.scot](https://www.healthandcare.scot)

### Wellbeing Resources

The cumulative stress of the pandemic, the workload pressures, and patient demand is undoubtedly affecting people's mental health. We know that practice leadership, and a supportive and valuing culture in general practices is vital in maintaining the wellbeing of the practice team. These are some of the wellbeing resources available to GPs, PMs and practice staff-

National Wellbeing Hub- [www.promis.scot](http://www.promis.scot)

NHS GGC Occupational Health Service-

<https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/working-with-us/hr-connect/occupational-health/covid-19/>

[Covid-19 Staff Support Line](https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/working-with-us/hr-connect/occupational-health/covid-19/)- 0141 303 8968

The Workforce Specialist Service-

<https://www.practitionerhealth.nhs.uk/accessing-the-service-in-scotland>

BMA Wellbeing Resource-

<https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/your-wellbeing/wellbeing-support-services/sources-of-support-for-your-wellbeing>

[Working Health Services Scotland \(WHSS\) - Health and Well-being \(nhsinform.scot\)](https://www.nhs.uk/working-health-services-scotland)

Yours sincerely,

**Dr Maureen Byrne**  
Chair

**Dr John Ip**  
Medical Director

**Dr Patricia Moultrie**  
Medical Director

**Marco Florence**  
Policy Officer

**Elaine McLaren**  
Administration Officer