



GLASGOW LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE LIMITED

14th April 2023

To All GPs and GP Practices

Welcome to our April 2023 newsletter. We hope that you had a restful long weekend and some time away from the pressures of practice work.

It is five years since the 2018 GMS contract came into effect. Ahead of this date, the Chair of SGPC published a [blog](#) on where general practice in Scotland is currently. GP practices are under immense pressure. There is still a lot of work and funding required for services like CTAC and Pharmacotherapy to be satisfactorily delivered. These PCIP services are to take workload away from GP practices, freeing up GP capacity to focus more on complex patients and clinical leadership. However, the reality is that the 2018 Contract has not been fully implemented. This means that GPs and practices are left facing impossible workload demand and are already increasingly responsible for an ageing population with more complex health needs.

The recent correspondence from the Scottish Government regarding CTAC and pharmacotherapy was hugely disappointing. The failure of the Scottish Government to honour the 2018 Contract and financial commitments have angered and demoralised GPs. The BMA has published guidance for practices and the LMC has recently distributed this.

SGPC Guidance for Practices

SGPC has now published guidance for practices about CTAC and Pharmacotherapy services. It is [available here](#). The following highlights some key aspects of the BMA document.

On 1 April 2023, the transitional arrangements and funding for CTAC and Pharmacotherapy which were in place from May 2022 ceased.

Regulation changes from 2022 put the responsibility on Health Boards for delivering CTAC and Pharmacotherapy services to patients. Whilst it is clear that full CTAC and Pharmacotherapy service are not in place in most areas, the Scottish Government refused to continue transitional funding to GP practices in recognition of this. In addition, the Government has refused to publish Contract Directions for CTAC and Pharmacotherapy which would have given clarity on the range of services expected to be provided by Health Boards. Correspondence from the Scottish Government and SGPC was distributed to practices and GPs by the LMC on 3rd April. This letter from the Scottish Government was extremely disappointing.

The guidance gives GPs information about fulfilling their GMS contractual obligation to provide “essential services”.

Due to limited capacity, practices can clinically prioritise the care given to patients, and to direct emergency / urgent care to other services such as secondary care, NHS24 and SAS. The [BMA Safe Workload Guidance](#) is referenced.

Practices are advised that as far as possible patients should be directed to CTAC and Pharmacotherapy services for their care. The guidance provided 2 template letters that practices can give to patients-

1. Where patients are directed to a Board service and will have to wait longer due to lack of capacity
2. Where practices are clear that they do not have to provide the service and that no Board provided service currently exists.

The above highlights some aspects of the BMA document. However, it is essential that all GP Contractors read the guidance document carefully and discuss this within their practices.

New LMC/GP Subcommittee Session

The GP Subcommittee/LMC will have its first meeting of the new session on Monday. This will be the first in person meeting of the full committee since before the pandemic. We are looking forward to seeing members in person again. We are committed to standing up for the interests of GPs and practices across GGC and we will work with the committee to do that.

Dr Alastair Taylor has been re-elected Treasurer, and Drs Ronnie Burns, Gayle Dunnet, Christopher Mansbridge, Austin Nichol and Michael Rennick have been re-elected to serve on the executive.

Sessional GP Information and Development Day

We were pleased to host an information and development day for sessional GPs in GGC on 25th March. We have been running this annually since 2013 and were pleased to be able to do this again in person. This importantly allows for sessional GPs to network with each other and the LMC/GP Subcommittee's secretariat. We provided sessions on: a service and IT update; questions for the medical directors; CPR training; and child protection training.

Email Mailing List

If any GPs would like to receive our communications direct to their own inbox, as well as their practice's, please do [let the office know](#).

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

NHS GGC Occupational Health Service-
[Occupational Health - NHSGGC](#)

[Covid-19 Staff Support Line](#)- 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>

The Cameron Fund

[The Cameron Fund](#) | [The GPs' Own Charity](#)

Yours sincerely,

Dr Maureen Byrne
Chair

Dr John Ip
Medical Director

Dr Patricia Moultrie
Medical Director

Marco Florence
Policy Officer

Elaine McLaren
Administration Officer