**BMA Scottish GP Committee/Scottish LMC Update – March 2021**


# BMA Scottish GP Committee (SGPC) Update:

## BMA SGPC Meeting – 25 March 2021

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The BMA Scottish GP Committee (SGPC) met on 25 March 2021 and discussed the needs of general practice as it recovers from the pandemic and the changes introduced as a result of the pandemic which should be retained.

The committee also discussed the latest progress on the development of transitionary services and the next steps for the Memorandum of Understanding, as well as the redesign of urgent care across LMC areas, and the ongoing impact of Covid on general practice, including the ongoing vaccination programme and future of the community pathway.

The committee received various reports from the GP Sessional committee and GP Trainee committee. SGPC also heard updates on premises, IT, GP Wellbeing, medical appraisal and pensions.

## COVID-19

### COVID-19 Vaccinations

A circular on Indemnity arrangements, [PCA(M)(2021)04 COVID-19 Immunisation Programme-Indemnity](https://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/pca/PCA2021%28M%2904.pdf) for GP practices and their staff participating in the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme was published on 26 February 2021.

The SGPC chair provided evidence at the Scottish Parliament’s COVID-19 committee on 11 February 2021. The papers and official report from the meeting are available on the Scottish Parliament [COVID-19 committee webpage](https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/114993.aspx).

### Long COVID-19

A circular, [PCA(M)(2021)03 COVID Special Leave](https://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/pca/PCA2021%28M%2903.pdf) was issued on 22 February 2021 by the Scottish Government regarding payments for locum costs where partners or members of staff are absent due to long COVID. This enables locum costs to be met indefinitely through a combination of the SFE and advance funding.

## Negotiating issues and contracts

### SGPC/SG Negotiation on MoU and 2018 GMS Contract

SGPC have held several virtual meetings to discuss prioritisation of the Scottish local medical committee (GP) conference 2020 resolutions; transitionary arrangements the expert medical generalist role and updates to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), with a joint meeting held with Scottish Government on 3 March 2021 to begin shaping the transitionary arrangements and regulation changes that will be required as a result of the 2 December [joint letter](https://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/publications/DC20201203GMS_Contract.pdf).

### Premises

A National Primary Care (GP) Premises Group meeting was held on 4 February 2021 which discussed feedback from the regional board representatives on the GP survey; the conclusion of NHS Tayside pilot survey; lease assignation; GP loan offers and an updated draft of the revised premises directions.

### Urgent Care/Enhanced COVID-19 Pathway Proposals

A letter regarding [Redesign of Urgent Care](https://www.parliament.scot/S5_HealthandSportCommittee/General%20Documents/20201203_Ltr_IN_from_CabSecHS_Redesign_of_Urgent_Care.pdf) was issued by the cabinet secretary for health and sport with an appended Rapid External Review report from Professor Sir Lewis Ritchie on NHS Ayrshire & Arran- Redesign of Urgent Care Pathfinder Programme. The Scottish Government requested that NHS24 be able to access GP appointment systems, but this was firmly declined. Our view is patients seeking GP access should always contact their GP practice.

## Wellbeing

Workforce Specialist Service

## A specialist service to provide confidential mental health support and treatment to regulated professionals in the health and social care sectors has been launched. The service is intended to particularly support those who find it difficult to access other services and is therefore likely to particularly benefit GPs. The service can be accessed [here](https://www.nationalwellbeinghub.scot/wp-content/cache/wp-rocket/www.promis.scot/the-workforce-specialist-service-wss/index-https.html_gzip).

Appraisal

## BMA Scotland and the Scottish Academy of Medical Royal Colleges have been working together on trying to improve the consistency of appraisals during the pandemic and to ensure that they have a wellbeing focus. A set of [top tips](https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/covid-19/adapting-to-covid/covid-19-a-changing-approach-to-appraisals) for doctors to manage their appraisals has now been published.

## Information Management and Technology

### GP Workload Data Collection

A bespoke survey went live nationwide in December 2020 as short-term (winter 2020) solution for gaining information on in-year GP activity data, running until at least Easter 2021. Public Health Scotland are currently working on analysis of the data provided so far. Practices that have responded to the weekly survey can now see analysis of their data to date, and PHS should have national level (aggregated) analysis to share with Scottish Government, SGPC and RCGP in the coming weeks. Practices that haven’t responded to the survey yet, can still do so each week.

If you have any queries about the survey or guidance please contact phs.generalpractice@phs.scot .

# LMC Update:

## For information

### SLMC Medical Secretaries Day and SLMC Business Coordinators Day

The Annual Scottish LMC Medical Secretaries Day is scheduled for 21 April 2021, and Scottish LMC Business Coordinators Day will be held on 14 April 2021. LMCs have been approached for agenda topics for the events.

### Scottish Local Medical Committee (GP) Conference

The SLMC Conference will be taking place on Friday 3 December 2021 at the Golden Jubilee Conference Hotel. The SLMCC agenda committee held a meeting on 25 February 2021 to discuss initial arrangements for a physical conference with substantive changes to the Scottish LMC representative allocations which were voted in last conference and recorded in the [SLMC Conference resolutions 2020](https://www.bma.org.uk/media/3594/sgpc-slmc-meeting-resolutions-2020.docx).

### Health and Sport Committee Report – What should Primary Care look like for the next generation – Phase II

The Health and Sport Committee published a report on 16 February: “[What should Primary Care look like for the next generation? – Phase 2](https://scottishparliament-newsroom.prgloo.com/news/under-embargo-until-0001-tues-16th-february-radical-changes-needed-to-deliver-primary-care-fit-for-the-21st-century-says-holyrood-committee)”. The chair provided a response in a blog on 18 February “[GPs on frontline of pandemic deserve better that latest MSPs report](https://bmascotland.home.blog/2021/02/18/gps-on-frontline-of-pandemic-deserve-better-than-latest-msps-report/)” sharing the frustration of the profession and anger from the inaccurate depictions within the report detailing that GPs are only available 9-5 leaving many dispirited and undervalued.

The report also questions the need for plans to recruit an additional 800 GPs, blames GPs for prescribing issues and lacks recognition of the GMS contract 2018. There were two main positive areas mentioned, the need for better IT systems and the expansion of multi-disciplinary teams which were diluted by the inaccuracies noted in the report.

### Independent Review of Adult Social Care in Scotland

A final [report on the independent Review of Adult Social Care in Scotland](https://www.gov.scot/publications/independent-review-adult-social-care-scotland/) was published on 3 February 2021 by Derek Feeley, former Scottish Government Director General for Health and Social Care and Chief Executive of NHS Scotland.

The report was discussed in more detail with the SGPC Executive on 25 February 2021 and was also raised at the meeting with the cabinet secretary.

### LMC and GP Subcommittee Board Visits

Due to the impact of COVID-19 the negotiating team have postponed all physical future visits. The negotiating team are however attending

## Contact us and follow our work

### Our BMA Scottish GP Committee (SGPC) negotiating Team:

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| ***Dr Andrew Cowie******Deputy Chair, SGPC*** | ***Dr Andrew Buist******Chair, SGPC*** | ***Dr Patricia Moultrie******Deputy Chair, SGPC*** |

**Any emails for the** **BMA Scottish GP Committee negotiating team should be submitted to** info.gpscotland@bma.org.uk**Your ideas about achievable measures to reduce pressure on general practice are always welcome. We can’t respond to every email, but all emails are read and considered by the team.** |

### Blogs from our negotiating team:

* [Appraisal during the pandemic](https://bmascotland.home.blog/2021/03/22/appraisal-during-the-pandemic/) – 22 March 2021
* [GPs on Frontline of Pandemic Deserve Better Than Latest MSPs Report](https://bmascotland.home.blog/2021/02/18/gps-on-frontline-of-pandemic-deserve-better-than-latest-msps-report/) – 18 February 2021

### Follow the work of the BMA online:

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| Blog: <https://bmascotland.home.blog/> | cid:image002.jpg@01D51089.B3F46540Twitter: [**@BMAScotland**](https://twitter.com/BMAScotland) <https://twitter.com/BMAScotland>  |
| cid:image001.jpg@01D51089.B3F46540Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bmascotland> | cid:image003.jpg@01D51089.B3F46540Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/bmascotland> |

**LMCs are reminded they can contact Andrea Ma, BMA Scottish GP Committee (SGPC) secretariat for more details (**ama@bma.org.uk**).**