

West Pennine Local Medical Committee

April 2020 UPDATE FROM YOUR LMC



Dr Amir Hannan, Chair



Dr Alan Dow, Secretary



Dr Mohammed Wasim, Vice Chair

A message from Dr Amir Hannan, your LMC Chair

On behalf of West Pennine LMC, I would like to thank you all for the hard work you and your staff are doing during the current COVID19 pandemic.

I have made a short video to thank all the staff who are working, as a token gesture and to appreciate all for what you do.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9XLQk3DEd5U>

COVID – 19 resources

As you will be well aware, the guidance on COVID-19 is constantly changing and we would recommend you keep yourself up to date by regularly visiting information sources such as the government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance#guidance-for-health-professionals>

We have updated our website with several documents, which you may find useful, including the RCGP's guidelines on workload prioritisation, guidelines from NHS E on managing patients and staff during the pandemic and the T&G CCG Covid 19 GP guidance V10. I have attached these documents for ease of reference.



RCGP guidance on workload prioritisation



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COVID19 T&G GP Guidance (V10).pdf

Ramadan

You may also find the following guidance on supporting staff who may be fasting useful:

<https://people.nhs.uk/guides/covid-19-and-ramadan/>

Enabling Safe certification of deaths

A GM team has been set up to assist GPs with the death reporting process during the Covid 19 pandemic. I have attached a flowchart, which may help the understanding of this process, with thanks to Dr Joanna Bircher who put this document together.



Procedures for GP practices related to

You may also want to listen to this podcast by Dr Tracey Vell, who has been involved in setting up the GM death reporting team: <https://www.podbean.com/ea/pb-85x78-d8aec8>

Please be aware that although covered by this service, this information is not exactly the same for the practices in Glossop and the High Peak, as they have a different process in place as dictated by the Senior Coroner for Derbyshire, Dr Robert Hunter and do not have to use a Statement of Intent nor review the Sol every 28 days.

Children's health during the COVID 19 pandemic

Our colleagues at Wessex LMC have shared the following important information:

*Wessex LMC has been working closely with one of our local Paediatricians, Dr Sanjay Patel a Consultant in Paediatric Infectious Diseases at University Hospital Southampton, he has been working with the **The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH)** they are keen to get the following message not only to general practice but also to your patients with children. Sadly, the RCPCH have received information about a number of cases where delayed presentation of unwell children by parents may have contributed to significant adverse events (includes **deaths from sepsis**, appendicitis etc). There have also been reports of increasing rates of non-accidental injury associated with this period of lock-down.*

It is really important for all healthcare professionals to appreciate that COVID-19 is extremely unlikely to cause severe illness in a child (data from China, Italy, UK) – most children exhibit very few or no symptoms when infected with SARS-COV2 so one cannot assume that an unwell child or a child with fever >5 days has COVID-19 and an alternative diagnosis must be considered. It is essential also that this message gets to parents and that if they have an unwell child, they must continue to seek healthcare support.

GM Pharmacy closures

As I'm sure you're aware, some of the pharmacies across Greater Manchester are having to shut due to staffing issues. I have attached the most up-to-date list of closures.



GM Pharmacy Closures 170420. (1)

DPO Update



Jane Hill, GP Practice Data Protection Officer

Notice on COPI regulations 2002

As I'm sure you're aware, a notice has been served on the Healthcare Control of Patient Information 2002 regulations. This Notice means that it is a requirement to share and process patient data for a COVID 19 purpose. For ease of reference, I have attached the notice.



COPI
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Graphnet

As regulated by the COPI regulation, health data will be shared at a GM level via Graphnet. Graphnet was enabled in Oldham via the Oldham Shares project. It is currently being urgently mobilised in the T&G area and once the current pandemic subsides, a full retrospective DPIA (Data Protection Impact Assessment) will be conducted. Please be aware that Graphnet uses coded data only and data related to sexual health, HIV and AIDS and Termination of pregnancy is excluded from this data.

GP Connect CCAS

A national requirement for data sharing and processing is the GP Connect CCAS. The CCAS (Covid-19 Assessment Service) is to be run by returning retired GPs, who will need to access patient health records via GP Connect. NHS Digital have recently run webinars for EMIS and TPP system users, which you may have already completed. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Covid-19 Privacy Notice

I have drafted a template privacy notice, which explains the changes to patient data sharing and processing during the pandemic. I have attached a copy of this, which you may wish to edit for use on your website.



Template GP
practice privacy noti

If you require any further information about any of the above, or any other data protection issues, please do not hesitate to contact me at westpenninelmc@btconnect.com, or mobile 07951 530 417.