**January 2022 - Update**

**BMA Scottish GP Committee and LMC Update**

BMA Scottish GP Committee (SGPC) Update:

 **BMA SGPC Meeting – 20th January 202****2**

BMA Scottish GPC Meeting

The BMA Scottish GP Committee (SGPC) had its first meeting of the year on 20th January 2022 which discussed changes to standardising standing orders, GPC UK Reform; heard updates from LMCs on COVID-19 workload, the escalation framework and GP wellbeing; pharmacotherapy and contract and negotiations progress.

BMA Scottish GPC Executive Meeting –
16th December 2021

The BMA Scottish GP Committee (SGPC) Executive had its first meeting on 16th December 2021 which discussed the community COVID-19 pathway and the respiratory infection control guidance; a revised partnership guidance; and heard updates and discussions on contract implementation and negotiations.
The next Executive meeting is scheduled for 24th February 2022.

**Negotiating Issues and Contracts**

Transitionary Services Arrangements Update

BMA Scottish GPC negotiated an extra [£30 million in sustainability funding](https://www.gov.scot/news/general-practice-support-over-winter-and-beyond/) to support all GP practices to continue to provide a high level of care to patient through Winter and next year. Further details was issued by the chair in a [blog](https://bmascotland.home.blog/2021/11/29/a-step-in-the-right-direction-for-supporting-gps/) published on 29th November explaining that the payment brings into effect what was agreed in the [joint letter – GMS contract Update for 2021/22 and beyond](https://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/publications/DC20201203GMS_Contract.pdf) as a result of the commitments of the 2018 GMS contract not yet having been fully delivered.

BMA SGPC- Meeting with the Health Secretary

The BMA SGPC Chair met with the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Mr Humza Yousaf MSP on 19th January 2022 and discussed the immediate pressures and challenges on GP practices as a result of the pandemic, the priorities for general practice for the next 6 months, premises and data collection.

The BMA SGPC Chair and Cabinet Secretary also issued a joint letter on 15th December 2021, thanking the continued resilience and commitment of GPs during the pandemic and noting that there may be a request from health boards to temporarily prioritise COVID-19 boosters above seasonal influenza vaccinations.

Pharmacotherapy Update
The Pharmacotherapy Strategic Implementation Group held meetings on 18th November and 21st December 2021 which received a presentation and update on serial and acute prescribing from Healthcare Improvement Scotland including a serial prescribing toolkit and production of an acute prescribing tools and pathway; discussion of DPDP leading the digital prescribing work; discussion of 3 service delivery measures: input, output and qualitative measures; and technician pipeline updates.

A Digital Prescribing and Dispensing Pathways (DPDP) Programme Board been established with an aim to replace the paper prescription with a digital solution in all community settings, including fulfilment of legislative requirements for the Advanced Electronic Signature and replace the wet signature as well as adapt the community pharmacy payment process. The first meeting was held on 30th November 2021.

A DPDP Clinical Advisory Group was also established to provide clinical advice to the Programme Board which is due to hold its first meeting.

### GP Activity Data Extracts

Activity data has begun to be extracted automatically from the majority of practices in Scotland to assist with understanding capacity in general practice. This data will be analysed on an aggregated basis and it is hoped that this data will provide a general overview of GP activity that can aid us in our negotiation and communication work moving forward.

**PPE**

### FFP3 face masks for general practice

BMA Scotland are pursuing a similar arrangement with Scottish Government as was recently announced for England where the Department of Health and Social Care confirmed FFP3 masks were available to general practices where desired. The change followed a BMA letter sent to Public Health England on 13th January requesting an urgent review of PPE guidance amid a faster spreading variant of coronavirus and a worry that ‘inadequate’ PPE is placing many at serious risk while at work.

**Information Sharing Requirement – Firearms Licensing
Information Management and Technology**

### Information Sharing Requirement - Firearms Licensing

New CMO guidance, [SGHD/CMO(2022)5](https://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/cmo/CMO%282022%2905.pdf) was issued on 25th January 2022 updating the process for handling firearms licence applications. Please note that a summary of changes has been provided from the previous guidance. These new arrangements will start on 31st January 2022.

It remains the case that any GP who feels unable to participate on the basis of a conscientious objection, or for any other reason, should refer the patient to a colleague where possible. The determination of an appropriate fee for these applications remains a matter for individual practices.

### Scottish Joint GP IT Group

The next meeting of the Scottish Joint GP IT Group will be held on Wednesday 9th February with discussion on Scotland’s Digital Health and Care Strategy report 2021; MS O365 training; SLMC Conference eHealth motions; a review of the terms of reference of SJGPITG; and the Digital Asynchronous Consulting Solutions (DACS) Steering Group.

The SJGPITG also heard updates from NHS Education for Scotland -National Digital Services (NDS), Scottish National Users Group (SNUG), Systematised Nomenclature of Medicine – Clinical Terms (SNOMED-CT), and Primary Care Informatics (new SCIMP).

**LMC Update: For information**

### 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 virtual meetings. If it would be helpful to meet with the negotiating team virtually please do get in touch.

BMA Scotland Conference
The BMA Scotland Conference will take place on Saturday 26th March 2022 from 10-4pm at the John McIntyre Conference Centre, Pollock Halls, Edinburgh, further details on the [programme](https://www.bma.org.uk/media/4908/bma-what-next-for-doctors-programme-mar22.pdf) and event are [available online](https://www.bma.org.uk/events/what-next-for-doctors).

Scottish LMC Conference: 3rd December 2021
The Scottish Local Medical Committee Conference was held virtually via MS Teams on 3rd December 2021 with a keynote speech from the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Mr Humza Yousaf MSP, and debated motions on workforce/wellbeing, primary/secondary care interface, healthcare planning and provision, contract and negotiations and much more.

A total of 56 motions were passed at conference which can be accessed [online](https://www.bma.org.uk/media/4912/bma-slmc-conference-resolutions-december-2021.pdf).

The 2022 Scottish LMC Conference will be held on 2nd December 2022, details on whether this can be held in person are yet to be confirmed, and will be arranged by the elected agenda committee: Denise McFarlane (Grampian) as chair of conference, Alastair Taylor (Glasgow) as deputy chair, Chris Black (Ayrshire & Arran), Waseem Khan (Glasgow) and Andrew Thomson (Tayside) as members of the agenda committee.

**Contact us and follow our work**

### **Workforce Specialist Service:** [practitionerhealth.nhs.uk/accessing-the-service-in-scotland](https://www.practitionerhealth.nhs.uk/accessing-the-service-in-scotland)

Delivered by NHS Practitioner Health, the Workforce Specialist Service is a confidential mental health service for all regulated professionals working in health and social work/social care sectors in Scotland.

**National Wellbeing Hub:** **0800 111 4191** | [wellbeinghub.scot](https://wellbeinghub.scot/)
broad range of advice and evidence-based digital resources to help staff cope with issues such as stress, anxiety and resilience, and improve sleep. The helpline also provides confidential emotional and psychological support for Scottish staff working in health and social care.

### Blogs from our negotiating team:

* [A step in the right direction for supporting GPs](https://bmascotland.home.blog/2021/11/29/a-step-in-the-right-direction-for-supporting-gps/) – 29th November 2021
* [Dr Andrew Buist – SLMC Conference speech 2021](https://bmascotland.home.blog/2021/12/03/dr-andrew-buist-slmc-conference-speech-2021/)  – 3rd December 2021
* [“Shortage of GPs laid bare by the pandemic” – Christmas update for GPs](https://bmascotland.home.blog/2021/12/23/shortage-of-gps-laid-bare-by-the-pandemic-christmas-update-for-gps/) –23rd December 2021

### Follow the work of the BMA online:

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|  Blog: <https://bmascotland.home.blog/> |  Twitter: [**@BMAScotland**](https://twitter.com/BMAScotland) <https://twitter.com/BMAScotland>  |
|  Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bmascotland> |  Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/bmascotland> |

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

**BMA Wellbeing Support Services:** **0330 123 1245** | [bma.org.uk/wellbeingsupport](http://www.bma.org.uk/wellbeingsupport) | [@BMAwellbeing](https://twitter.com/bmawellbeing)
Our counselling service is open 24/7 to all doctors and medical students (regardless of BMA membership), plus their partners and dependents, and is confidential and free of charge.

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| **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.**  |

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