**SGPC/SLMC Update – April 2020**



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# SGPC Update:

## SGPC Meeting – 26 March 2020

### SGPC Meeting - 26 March 2020

SGPC ran its first virtual meeting held on 26 March 2020, with a reduced attendance list of 20 utilising Skype for Business. Attendees included one representative from each LMC, the SGPC negotiators and secretariat team, RCGP representative, a SCC secondary care representative and representative from GPC England. The committee received updates from the chair on what SGPC, and the wider BMA Scotland have done to support COVID-19 and SGPCs engagement with Scottish Government, the CMO, and the cabinet secretary around aspects such as PPE and additional funding.

The committee also heard updates with secondary care, within GPC England and local updates from each LMC, 13 of the 14 were represented and provided updates on their situation with triaging; progress with Covid-19 Assessment Centres (CAC), staffing and the clinical pathway; high risk patients and shielding; PPE; prescribing and dispensing; support within community; and suspension of other work in order to manage workload.

In the afternoon there was a Q&A session where questions were asked by LMCs on various themes including: funding/ pensions/ indemnity; PPE protection/ testing; primary care/ secondary care workforce/ pan-BMA issue; death in service/ death certification/ verification; and other. The majority of topics raised were being explored and negotiated by SGPC with Scottish Government as high priority and urgent matters such as death in service and pensions, additional funding and PPE.

## COVID-19

### National Supporting Guidance for Scottish General Practice

The following letter provided on 17 March on [National Supporting Guidance for Scottish General Practice](https://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/publications/DC20200317Covid19.pdf?utm_source=The%20British%20Medical%20Association&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11416763_GP%20ENEWSLETTER%20200320%20-%20COVID19%20-%20SCOTLAND&utm_content=Government%20supporting%20guidance&dm_t=0,0,0,0,0) brings together a range of guidance to support GPs, GPNs, practices and community nurses team, other clinicians in the MDT, and practice management and administration staff to coordinate response activities for COVID-19 pandemic, has been developed and collated by the Primary Care Division in the Scottish Government, and has been accepted and co-signed by BMA Scotland’s SGPC and RCGP.

### COVID-19- Update for GPs

The chair of SGPC published a [blog update on COVID-19 for GPs](https://bmascotland.home.blog/2020/03/20/covid-19-update-for-gps/) on 20 March 2020 informing on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic and the negotiating team’s regular discussions with Scottish Government, the CMO and cabinet secretary. Further supplies of PPE should have been received by health boards for wider distribution to GP practices. If you are still without appropriate PPE, please contact: [support@bma.org.uk](mailto:support@bma.org.uk). Other aspects we are continuing to push for is testing of frontline NHS workers, sickness/absence certification, efficient prescribing arrangements, death verification, and remote working.

### Guidance from CMO on Death Certification during COVID-19 Pandemic

The CMO sent a letter on 24 March 2020 regarding Guidance to Medical practitioners for Death Certification during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The guidance although not all inclusive is intended to give medical practitioners assistance and support with their clinical responsibility for the appropriate certification of death and provision of the MCCD/Form 11. Further details of the new guidance is available online on the [HPS webpage.](https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/web-resources-container/cmo-letter-guidance-to-medical-practitioners-for-death-certification-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/)

### MDDUS CEO Chris Kenny reassurance to members on COVID-19 Response

Chris Kenny produced an [update to members on 18 March 2020](https://www.mddus.com/coronavirus/coronavirus-update/2020/march/message-from-chris-kenny--on-covid-19) with 3 clear messages about membership: Firstly, to enable the return of recently retired members by automatically giving free non-claims indemnity to those who seek to return to practice for the duration of the emergency. MDDUS will write shortly to all members who have retired in the last three years. Second MDDUS will enable retrospective adjustments on hours and sessions. Third MDDUS will continue to provide the best value and will consider future pricing against the new back drop.

### High Risk Patients

CMO has sent information to practices in relation to patients that would be categorised as high risk (people at highest risk of severe morbidity or mortality from COVID-19) and operational tasks that GPs need to take such as supplying CHI numbers to their local health board coordinating team and producing a Key Information Summary (KIS); and getting in touch with patients to discuss the letter.

High risk patients were sent a separate letter to provide information on what they should do and not do to stay safe and information on financial assistance, mental wellbeing, daily living support, medications and carers amongst other things.

### Revalidation and Appraisal

CMO published a letter on 26 March on the “Coronavirus (COVID-19): National Arrangements for Medical Appraisal and Revalidation for all Responsible Officers in Scotland” which states that all scheduled appraisals should be cancelled from the date of this letter until further notice. No further appraisals should be scheduled unless there are exceptional circumstances agreed locally.

### Coronavirus Act 2020 – Emergency Legislation

[Coronavirus Act 2020](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/7/contents/enacted/data.htm) – Emergency legislation known as the Coronavirus Act 2020 was introduced on 25 March 2020 by the government to help the country cope with the demands caused by the coronavirus outbreak.

**Retired NHS staff returning to work**   
The Act provides temporary measures that allows retired NHS staff to return to NHS work or increase their working commitments without their pension benefits being affected, these include suspension of the following scheme rules:

* The 16-hour rule in the 1995 Section which currently prevents staff who return to work from working more than 16-hours per week in the first month following retirement.
* Abatement for special class status members in the 1995 Section.
* The requirement for staff in the 2008 Section and 2015 NHS Pension Scheme to reduce their pensionable pay by 10% if they elect to ‘draw down’ a portion of their benefits and continue working.

Further details and Q&A can be found on the [SPPA website](https://pensions.gov.scot/news/coronavirus-act-2020-retired-nhs-staff-returning-work) for retired NHS staff returning to work

## Negotiating issues and contracts

### MOU PCIP Letter on PCIP and Tracker Returns - Postponed

Areas will have received from their LMC medical secretaries a letter informing that PCIP and workforce trackers which were due to be submitted to the Primary Care Division by 15 May 2020 and 24 April 2020 respectively will be delayed for 3 months **‘until we (Scottish Government) are of the view that work around Covid-19 has significantly lessened’** and will be reviewed after 3 months.

**‘The GP Sub PCIP funding is now extended to support GP Subs / LMCs engagement with their Boards and HSCPs and to increase their capacity to develop guidance and communicate to support practices ability to respond. We ask that boards take steps to ensure that this funding flows as quickly as possible to allow the committees to immediately provide capacity to engage in this work.’**

# LMC Update:

## For information

### Scottish LMC Medical Secretaries Day - Virtualised

The Scottish LMC Medical Secretaries Day scheduled for the 22 April will be going ahead in a virtual format held via Skype for Business and will be reformatted to discuss COVID-19 and urgent matters of priority from each local LMC area. An invitation will be sent out in the next few weeks. The LMC Medical Secretaries Day 2021 is scheduled for 21 April 2021.

### Scottish LMC Lay Secretaries/ Business Coordinators Day - Cancelled

The Scottish LMC Lay Secretaries/ Business Coordinators Day that was due to take place on Tuesday 14 April 2020 has unfortunately been cancelled. The next LMC Lay Secretaries/Business Coordinators Day is scheduled for Wednesday 14 April 2021.

### LMC UK Conference 2020– Cancelled

The UK LMC Conference 2020 has been cancelled and due to current circumstances and the uncertainty going forward, it is unlikely that we will able to reschedule for any time later this year, so the next conference is likely to be May 2021. A date will be announced as soon as possible.

For any unrefundable costs or cancellation fees claims should be received by **31 May 2020**:

* For Representatives of LMCs this should be by an invoice to the GPDF; this may be sent electronically to mail@gpdf.org.uk with a scan of the relevant item(s) but please use a file size less than 1MB
* For GPC members and others claiming from the BMA using Concur in the usual way.

### BMA Annual Representative Meeting 2020 - Postponed

It is important that our members can be where they need and want to be, on the frontline supporting their colleagues and patients (and prioritising what spare time they have to rest or spend as they wish). The BMA Council, following a recommendation made by the BMA Board, has taken the further decision to adjourn this year’s ARM, due to be held in Edinburgh, until at least September 2020.

### LMC and GP Subcommittee Board Visits

Due to the impact of COVID-19 the negotiating team have postponed their trips to Western Isles Shetland and Orkney LMC and have postponed all future visits till the pandemic, risk and workload has significantly lessened.

## Contact us and follow our work

### Our SGPC negotiating Team:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **LMCs are reminded they can contact Andrea Ma, SGPC secretariat for more details (**[ama@bma.org.uk](mailto:ama@bma.org.uk)**).**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  |  | C:\Users\patricia\Pictures\.jpg | | ***Dr Andrew Cowie***  ***Deputy Chair, SGPC*** | ***Dr Andrew Buist***  ***Chair, SGPC*** | ***Dr Patricia Moultrie***  ***Deputy Chair, SGPC*** |   **Any emails for the SGPC negotiating team should be submitted to** [info.gpscotland@bma.org.uk](mailto: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:

* [Data Collection is Vital for Phase 2 Progression](https://bmascotland.home.blog/2020/02/05/data-collection-is-vital-for-phase-2-progression/) - 5 February 2020
* [Data collection, and Why It Is Important to Rural General Practice](https://bmascotland.home.blog/2020/02/18/data-collection-and-why-it-is-important-to-rural-general-practice/) – 18 February 2020
* [Sustainability Loans Update](https://bmascotland.home.blog/2020/02/19/sustainability-loans-update/) – 19 February 2020
* [COVID-19 Update for GPs](https://bmascotland.home.blog/2020/03/20/covid-19-update-for-gps/) – 20 March 2020

### Follow the work of the BMA online:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Blog:  <https://bmascotland.home.blog/> | [cid:image002.jpg@01D51089.B3F46540](https://twitter.com/BMAScotland)Twitter: [**@BMAScotland**](https://twitter.com/BMAScotland)  <https://twitter.com/BMAScotland> |
| [cid:image001.jpg@01D51089.B3F46540](https://www.facebook.com/bmascotland)Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bmascotland> | [cid:image003.jpg@01D51089.B3F46540](https://www.instagram.com/bmascotland)Instagram:  <https://www.instagram.com/bmascotland> |