**SGPC/SLMC Update – July 2020**



Contents

[SGPC Update: 1](#_Toc44667021)

[SGPC Meeting – 18 June 2020 1](#_Toc44667022)

[SGPC Meeting – 18 June 2020 1](#_Toc44667023)

[COVID-19 2](#_Toc44667024)

[GP Services in Scotland During the COVID Pandemic: Next Steps 2](#_Toc44667025)

[COVID-19: Model Salaried GP Contract - Update 2](#_Toc44667026)

[GP Practices – Additional Funding -COVID-19 2](#_Toc44667027)

[Negotiating issues and contracts 2](#_Toc44667028)

[PCIP and Tracker Returns - Discussions 2](#_Toc44667029)

[Statement of Financial Entitlements 2020-2021 3](#_Toc44667030)

[Information Management and Technology 3](#_Toc44667031)

[Scottish Joint GP IT Group 3](#_Toc44667032)

[LMC Update: 3](#_Toc44667033)

[For information 3](#_Toc44667034)

[Health and Sport Committee Report Inquiry on the Supply and Demand for Medicines 3](#_Toc44667035)

[Scottish LMC Medical Secretaries Day 3](#_Toc44667036)

[BMA Annual Representative Meeting 2020 – 15 September 2020 3](#_Toc44667037)

[SGPC Representatives, First of Session and Office Bearer Elections 3](#_Toc44667038)

[Scottish LMC Conference 4](#_Toc44667039)

[LMC and GP Subcommittee Board Visits 4](#_Toc44667040)

[Contact us and follow our work 4](#_Toc44667041)

[Our SGPC negotiating Team: 4](#_Toc44667042)

[Blogs from our negotiating team: 4](#_Toc44667043)

[Follow the work of the BMA online: 4](#_Toc44667044)

# SGPC Update:

## SGPC Meeting – 18 June 2020

### SGPC Meeting – 18 June 2020

SGPC ran its first full virtual meeting held on 18 June 2020. The committee received updates from the chair on SGPC’s continued engagement with Scottish Government, the CMO, and the Cabinet Secretary around aspects such as recovery and mobilisation as the health service returns to a ‘new normal’. The chair added that there is an intention to restart contract implementation and negotiations with prioritisation of the premises’ sustainability loans and premises work, more frequent meetings of the GMS National Oversight Group and a restart of PCIPs and meetings on contract negotiations on a bi-weekly basis.

The committee also heard updates on the work of the Scottish Romney Implementation Group and received reports from various GPC meetings, external groups, the GP Sessional, GP Trainee and the SGPC Executive as well as a discussion on GP Wellbeing and moves to develop an equivalent to the Practitioner Health Service in England.. The service that is being produced in Scotland will be a wellbeing service that is now likely to be for all eligible healthcare professionals.

The afternoon of SGPC focused mainly on discussions and views of the committee regarding COVID-19 recovery, in particular requesting thoughts on the role of GPs in care homes; influenza vaccinations; interface arrangements; accident and emergency and secondary care pathway changes; the memorandum of understanding arrangements; and CTAC opportunities; as well as the committees’ thoughts on Digital Asynchronous Consultation Solutions (DACS) and wider GP IT solutions.

A pensions and death in service update was provided by Dr Alan Robertson, a member of the BMA Pensions Committee who was leading on a lot of the work. Further details on Death in Service can be found via Dr Alan Robertson’s latest BMA blog on 13 May 2020, [Update on Death in Service](https://bmascotland.home.blog/2020/05/13/update-on-death-in-service/).

## COVID-19

### GP Services in Scotland During the COVID Pandemic: Next Steps

The chair of SGPC published a [blog on GP Services in Scotland During the COVID Pandemic: Next Steps](https://bmascotland.home.blog/2020/06/05/gp-services-in-scotland-during-the-covid-next-steps/) on 5 June 2020 re-emphasising the response of GPs as a profession to be flexible, innovative, dedicated and committed to the care of patients, and recognising the next steps to return to a new normal. Strict infection control measures, digital innovations with use of remote consultations, and staffing were areas mentioned in the blog that were enablers to support the recovery phase. Wellbeing and mindfulness that GPs will need to reflect and recuperate from this intense period would also need to be factored, and the importance of this is highlighted in Patricia Moultrie, deputy chair’s blog on [GP Wellbeing: Making Sure Your Needs Are Met](https://bmascotland.home.blog/2020/05/22/gp-wellbeing-making-sure-your-needs-are-met/). The BMA offers wellbeing support services, which are available on the [BMA website](https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/your-wellbeing), including a confidential 24/7 counselling and peer support service at 0330 123 1245. The service is open to all doctors and medical students (regardless of BMA membership), this extends to partners and dependents.

### COVID-19: Model Salaried GP Contract - Update

Patricia Moultrie deputy chair produced a blog on 7 May 2020 on the [Model Salaried GP Contract](https://bmascotland.home.blog/2020/05/07/covid-19-model-salaried-gp-contract-update/) and the [contractual arrangements](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-model-salaried-gp-contract/) that can provide Sessional GPs with assurance on issues such as death in service, holiday leave, sick pay , including if they are required to self-isolate.

All GPs who choose to take up an offer of employment from their NHS board based on this contract commit to and will be guaranteed a minimum of one shift per week. Every post will be pensionable, with employees being entered into the NHS pension scheme (unless you choose to opt out, are ineligible to join or have retained contractor status) where you will be entitled to receive death in service benefits.

### GP Practices – Additional Funding -COVID-19

The Scottish Government announced additional funding for GP Practices on 7 April 2020 of £15 million to be shared across all GP practices for the period from 3rd March 2020 to recognise the pressure on General Practice caused by Covid-19 and fund practices to remain open during the April public holidays. A summary of the breakdown of the funding was provided in [a letter dated 28 April 2020: PCA(M)(2020)06](https://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/pca/PCA2020(M)06.pdf) and further clarification of what would be eligible for reimbursements was included in a further letter [PCA(M)(2020)09 on 20 May 2020.](https://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/pca/PCA2020(M)09.pdf) Further funding of 0.8% of the global sum and Income & Expenses Guarantee (around £5 million) was announced to pay for practices to open for public holidays in May.

## Negotiating issues and contracts

### PCIP and Tracker Returns - Discussions

In our last SGPC/SLMC Update on 3 April 2020, we shared that LMC medical secretaries had received a letter informing of PCIP and workforce tracker postponement for 3 months, which were previously due to be submitted to the Primary Care Division by 15 May and 24 April 2020 respectively. The SGPC negotiators will be reviewing this position with Scottish Government as work on COVID-19 has significantly lessened and will communicate further once details are agreed.

### Statement of Financial Entitlements 2020-2021

An updated General Medical Services Statement of Financial Entitlements was published and sent on 28 April 2020 and is [available online](https://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/pca/PCA2020(M)05.pdf). The revisions agreed between BMA (SGPC) and the Scottish Government were predominantly to meet the needs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. An additional revision will be negotiated an issued at the end of the outbreak.

## Information Management and Technology

### Scottish Joint GP IT Group

The eighth meeting of the Scottish Joint GP IT Group occurred virtually on 18 May 2020. The group discussed GP IT issues in respect of COVID-19, in particular any local GP IT issues with SWAN (Scottish Wide Area Network)/VPN; internet, broadband and bandwidth speeds; Near Me/ Attend Anywhere remote consultation solutions; Office 365 and Microsoft Teams; single sign-on; sharing of records across system; and nhs.scot.

The impact of COVID-19 was also discussed on the delivery of GP IT programmes: SNOMED-CT; GP IT Re-Provisioning; ECS Service Board; SNUG; Docman 75500 licencing; electronic prescribing; GP2GP; SCIMP; Primary Care Digital Reform Programme Board; and National Digital Strategy (NDS). Other additional topics discussed included the Albasoft Extraction and surveillance work; clinical decision support; the coding of COVID-19 shielding patients and COVID-19 data access. The next meeting of the SJPITG is on 12 August 2020 and will be convening virtually.

# LMC Update:

## For information

### Health and Sport Committee Report Inquiry on the Supply and Demand for Medicines

We were extremely disappointed to [see comments from the Scottish Parliament’s Health & Sport Committee](https://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/115490.aspx) unfairly claiming that GPs’ default position is to ‘reach for the prescription pad’. We will be raising our concerns about this assertion with the committee.

### Scottish LMC Medical Secretaries Day

The Scottish LMC Medical Secretaries Day was held on 22 April which shared and discussed the COVID-19 situation in each LMC area, in particular working with secondary care, and GP colleagues and leadership; supporting the CACs and hubs; use of remote consultation, Zoom, MS Teams, and other technological solutions; PPE provision; triaging; communication channels; pathways; shielding; and general coping of rapid change.

In addition, LMC Leadership wellbeing reflections were shared and discussed on what support is available and can be provided to support LMC medical secretaries and colleagues during the pandemic. There was recognition that in some area psychological and wellbeing support had improved and the message of ‘permission to not be okay’ was most welcomed, as well as inclusion of the wellbeing session as an opportunity to safely share with peers.

There was also an opportunity for LMCs to submit questions in advance which were themed and discussed under the following topic headings: COVID-19 CACs (Covid-19 Assessment Centres) and hubs; funding; contractual; PPE; IT; and other issues.

### BMA Annual Representative Meeting 2020 – 15 September 2020

A decision has been made by BMA Council to hold the 2020 BMA Annual Representative Meeting on Tuesday 15 September 2020, in a virtual format. The details for the day are yet to be discussed internally and once confirmed, will be communicated to members promptly.

### SGPC Representatives, First of Session and Office Bearer Elections

Due to the postponement of the 2020 BMA Annual Representative Meeting and rearrangement to 15 September 2020. The last meeting of session 2019-2020, for SGPC is on 20 August 2020.

Please note that LMC election processes can proceed in their normal manner however those elected as SGPC representatives for session 2020-21 will not take up their seats until after the ARM has taken place at the first meeting in October and any current members who are not continuing as a representative in the next session (2020-2021) would not be expected to demit their seat until this time. The date of the first of session will be communicated to members once confirmed as we are considering moving it back a week from 15 to 22 October to allow the full time period for elections to take place.

Please note that current SGPC office bearers will continue in their role until October 2020. The SGPC Executive meeting on 24 September will be postponed to Thursday 17 December 2020.

If your LMC has already elected SGPC representatives for session 2020-2021 could you send details to Mhairi Weatherston ([mweatherston@bma.org.uk](mailto:mweatherston@bma.org.uk)). Newly elected SGPC members for Session 2020-2021 will be contacted directly by secretariat regarding SGPC office bearer elections, which will take place in advance of the first of session in October 2020.

### Scottish LMC Conference

The Scottish LMC Conference Agenda Committee met on Thursday 2 July 2020 to discuss the implications of COVID-19 on holding this year’s planned Scottish LMC and Special Conference in further detail. Information will be communicated to LMCs as soon as available.

### LMC and GP Subcommittee Board Visits

Due to the impact of COVID-19 the negotiating team have postponed all future visits till the pandemic, risk and workload has significantly lessened.

## Contact us and follow our work

### Our SGPC negotiating Team:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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:

* [General Practice Updates for COVID-19](https://bmascotland.home.blog/2020/04/03/general-practice-updates-for-covid-19/) – 03 April 2020
* [COVID-19 – Update for General Practice](https://bmascotland.home.blog/2020/04/21/covid19-update-for-general-practice/) – 21 April 2020
* [COVID-19 – Model Salaried GP Contract Update](https://bmascotland.home.blog/2020/05/07/covid-19-model-salaried-gp-contract-update/) – 07 May 2020
* [COVID-19 – What Next for General Practice in Scotland](https://bmascotland.home.blog/2020/05/14/covid19-what-next-for-general-practice-in-scotland/) – 14 May 2020
* [GP Wellbeing – Making Sure Your Needs are Met](https://bmascotland.home.blog/2020/05/22/gp-wellbeing-making-sure-your-needs-are-met/) – 22 May 2020
* [GP Services in Scotland During the COVID Pandemic – Next Steps](https://bmascotland.home.blog/2020/06/05/gp-services-in-scotland-during-the-covid-next-steps/) – 05 June 2020
* [General Practice: Mobilisation and Recovery...](https://bmascotland.home.blog/2020/06/30/general-practice-mobilisation-and-recovery/) – 30 June 2020
* [IT is a Key Tool in Improving Efficiency…](https://bmascotland.home.blog/2020/07/01/it-is-a-key-tool-in-improving-efficiency/) – 1 July 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> |