**SGPC/SLMC Update – August 2020**

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# SGPC Update:

## SGPC Meeting – 20 August 2020

### SGPC Meeting – 20 August 2020

SGPC held its last meeting of session on 20 August 2020. Thanks to all who have contributed and engaged in 2019-20 session. Election of office bearer positions for deputy chair, co-negotiation and SGPC Executive will be held in mid-September – early October. The committee heard updates on letters produced by Scottish Government including COVID-19 additional funding for GP Practices; and influenza vaccinations. The chair also shared information on the SPIRE practice activity data extraction work, medical appraisal, an update on the National GMS Oversight Group meeting and re-established NHSScotland Primary Care National Premises Group meetings, as well as the joint response from SGPC and RCGP on the health and sport committee Inquiry on the Supply and Demand for Medicines.

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. Information was shared that Scottish Government have agreed to grant £60,000 lump-sum payment to the next of kin of all NHSScotland staff who die in service where COVID-19 is a documented factor in addition to the NHS Scotland Coronavirus Life Assurance Scheme 2020. Further details on pensions and death in service can be found via Alan’s latest BMA blog ‘[Latest Pensions Update’](https://bmascotland.home.blog/2020/08/03/latest-pensions-update/) published on 3 August 2020, and ‘[Update on Death in Service’](https://bmascotland.home.blog/2020/05/13/update-on-death-in-service/) on 13 May 2020 .

The committee discussed recovery and remobilisation with a focus on general practice priorities, urgent care and respiratory pathway proposals and care homes, and received reports from various GPC meetings, external groups, the GP Sessional Committee, and GP Trainee Committee.

## COVID-19 Recovery and Remobilisation

### COVID-19 Recovery and Remobilisation meetings

The SGPC negotiators have been participating in various recovery and remobilisation meetings discussing urgent care, unscheduled care, mental health pathways, respiratory pathways, influenza vaccinations, COVID-19 vaccinations, and the next phase of the health and social care response.

## Negotiating issues and contracts

### PCIF, PCIP and Tracker Returns

The Primary Care Improvement Fund letter with accompanying spreadsheet for completion was sent out to NHS Board Chief Executives and Directors of Finance, and Integration Authority Chief Officers and Chief Finance Officers on 25 August 2020. As discussed previously there was a review of the position on PCIP and workforce tracker information being submitted, there will be a communication regarding the submission of a report on the progress of implementation.

### DDRB Announcement and GP Uplift Letter

The recommendations from the review body on doctors’ and dentists’ pay was published on 21 July 2020 and is available [online](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-body-on-doctors-and-dentists-remuneration-48th-report-2020).

The [GP Uplift Letter](https://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/pca/PCA2020%28M%2913.pdf) was sent out to GP Practices and NHS Board Chief Executives on 24 August from the Scottish Government which subsequently announced and accepted the 2.8% uplift in pay for all doctors backdated to April, which will arrive in September payments. The total value of the contract will increase by 3.4%, comprised of a 2.8% uplift of GP pay net of expenses, an uplift of 1.7% for non-staff expenses in line with inflation and included within this is a 2.95% increase for practice staff pay to match the increase seen by Agenda for Change staff. Where appropriate, both Scottish Government and SGPC would encourage and expect practices to use funding intended for staff pay to deliver a pay increase for staff. A further £4.4 million will be added to global sum to reflect population growth bringing the total value of contract changes to £25 million.

### Influenza Vaccinations

The [Seasonal Influenza Immunisation Programme 2020-21 in Scotland](https://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/cmo/DC20200824Influenza.pdf) joint statement from Scottish Government and SGPC was distributed to Primary Care Leads, LMCs and SGPC on 21 August 2020, and published online on 24 August, providing details about the arrangements for the 2020 - 21 seasonal flu vaccination programme for adults in Scotland.

The circular ‘Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccination (Coronavirus Outbreak) (Scotland) Directions 2020’ was sent out on 25 August and the directions are due to be finalised and will be sent out imminently. Further details on influenza vaccinations is detailed in the blog, ‘[As General Practice Approaches Winter…](https://bmascotland.home.blog/2020/08/26/as-general-practice-approaches-winter/)’ by Andrew Buist, chair.

The national agreement gives health boards primary responsibility for delivering influenza vaccinations. GP practices who take up the DES will this year provide a broadly similar time commitment to delivering vaccinations as in previous years in exchange for their funding remaining at the level of normal years. Additional payments will be possible on top of this, after an allowance for opportunistic vaccinations is exceeded. The national arrangement is not intended to cut across local arrangements if these have been agreed by the LMC.

## Information Management and Technology

### Scottish Joint GP IT Group

The ninth meeting of the Scottish Joint GP IT Group occurred virtually on 19 August 2020. The group had an update on electronic prescribing from Ewan Morrison Director of Pharmacy NSS, Dr Lucy Munro Associate Medical Director, NSS and Dr Sameer Patel Clinical Lead from National Digital Services who was also leading on the work.

SJGPITG also heard updates from the primary care reform digital board, NDS, SNUG, SNOMED-CT, SCIMP, ECS Service Board, and GP2GP. In addition, there was discussion on Digital Asynchronous Consulting Solutions (DACS), remote consulting, chronic consulting, and order comms. Other topics discussed include flu vaccine cohort identification, GP IT infrastructure, the DL Intra-NHSScotland Information Sharing Accord 2020, and feedback on Clinical Decision Support Digital Health and Care Institute (DHI) workshop in 23 June on the digital decision support tools.

The next meeting of the group will likely be held virtually in November 2020. Details of dates will be sent to the group for confirmation.

# LMC Update:

## For information

### Medical Appraisal

National arrangement for restarting appraisal in Scotland was communicated in a letter from the interim CMO, Dr Gregor Smith on 23 July to all responsible officer in Scotland informing recommencing of appraisals for all doctors from 1 October 2020, to allow doctors to prepare for revalidation in March 2021. In the letter he stressed the importance to focus on the wellbeing and reflection, and that accommodations will be made regarding supporting evidence, and flexibilities in conducting the appraisal as long as the mandatory core GMC requirements, in particular regard to patient safety are fulfilled as a requirement for revalidation recommendations.

### 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 at 13.00, in a virtual format which includes elections to [18 committees](https://www.bma.org.uk/media/2859/bma-arm-elections-to-committee-jul20.pdf) which all BMA UK members may stand for, the nominations for these positions are open until 10.00 on Tuesday 15 September 2020.

There is also a photography competition taking place on ‘capturing COVID’ to find out what the pandemic has meant for doctors across the UK. Further details of the ARM, the elections and the photo competition are available online on the [BMA website](https://www.bma.org.uk/what-we-do/annual-representative-meeting/2020/arm-2020) including access to the published agenda and timetable for the day.

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

As shared previously the LMC election process for office bearers: deputy chair, co-negotiator and SGPC executive will be taking place in September in advance of the first of session meeting on Thursday 22 October 2020.

If your LMC has already elected SGPC representatives for session 2020-2021 we would encourage you to send details to Mhairi Weatherston (mweatherston@bma.org.uk) at your earliest convenience to ensure inclusion in the elections process. 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 on Thursday 22 October 2020. Dates for next session (2020-2021) is available on the [SGPC webpage](https://www.bma.org.uk/what-we-do/committees/general-practitioners-committee/scottish-general-practitioners-committee).

### Scottish LMC Conference

The Scottish LMC Conference will be held virtually on Friday 4 December 2020. The cabinet secretary will be attending and addressing the conference virtually on the day. Invitations have been sent to LMCs with a request for representatives by 12noon on 25 September and submission of motions by 12noon on 1 October 2020. Further details on the specific format of conference will be circulated in due course.

### 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.

## 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**).**

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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 SGPC 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:

* [Navigating Face Coverings in the ‘New Normal’](https://bmascotland.home.blog/2020/07/23/navigating-masks-in-the-new-normal/) – 23 July 2020
* [As General Practice Approaches Winter…](https://bmascotland.home.blog/2020/08/26/as-general-practice-approaches-winter/) - 26 August 2020

### 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> |