

**July
2022**

LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE
LMC
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

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CHANGES TO FIT NOTE LEGISLATION

From 1 July, legislation is changing which will allow more healthcare professionals to certify fit notes to patients.

- Currently only doctors can legally certify fit notes. DWP are now changing the legislation which will allow a further four professions to do this. These professions are nurses, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, and pharmacists.
- Not everybody working within these professions should issue fit notes. Professionals should be working in a suitable environment and have the necessary skills and training to have work and health conversations with patients. This task needs to be within their professional 'scope of practice', therefore new guidance and training has been developed which will help professionals to identify if this task is suitable for them. This will be available from 1 July. Our understanding is that this training will be available via the eLFH platform and from the representative bodies of each profession. There will be a rollout period from this date where GP IT systems will be updated to reflect the change.
- This legislation change applies across England, Scotland, and Wales.
- This change follows legislation changes in April which removed the need for fit notes to be signed in ink. This change made it possible for doctors to certify fit notes digitally and for patients to receive their fit note via digital channels (where GP IT systems support this).

ACCELERATED ACCESS TO FULL PATIENT RECORDS

The Secretary of State has now confirmed a launch date of 1 November 2022.

The GP Committee's IT Policy Group has been having weekly calls with NHS England and has participated in several workshops looking at clinical safety issues, redaction, and guidance documents. They are working with system suppliers and with safeguarding leads and hope mitigations will be in place to address any ongoing safety concerns. They are also awaiting feedback from early adopter sites.

There are several steps that practices need to take between now and the launch date and guidance on this will be available shortly.

The LMC is looking at options for training for practice staff to support this change.

CERVICAL SMEAR SAMPLE TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

We'd like to thank those GPs who alerted us to the issue of smear pathology going missing on the way to the lab which has led to the action and investigation taken by the CCG and GHFT. We are in discussions with both the CCG and GHFT around the communications that have gone to both patients and practices. If any colleagues are experiencing difficulties over this unfortunate incident please contact the LMC so that we can escalate these issues.

SECONDARY CARE WAITING TIMES

NHSE have launch a new website called [My Planned Care](#), which shows potential wait times for different secondary care specialities. It allows you to look at hospital level and may be helpful to manage patient's expectations.

UPDATED INFECTION PREVENTION CONTROL GUIDANCE FOR PRACTICES

IPC guidance has continued to evolve throughout the pandemic. UKHSA has updated its UK IPC guidance with new [COVID-19 pathogen-specific advice for health and care professionals](#). This advice should be read alongside the [National Infection Prevention and Control Manual \(NIPCM\) for England](#) and applies to all NHS settings or settings where NHS services are delivered.

Any IPC measures beyond those contained in above publications is a matter for local discretion.

In summary (full article [here](#)).

For health and care staff:

- Health and care staff should continue to wear facemasks as part of personal protective equipment required for transmission-based precautions when caring for suspected/confirmed COVID-19 patients. This is likely to include settings where untriaged patients may present at the Practice.
- Universal masking should be applied when there is known or suspected cluster transmission of SARS-CoV-2, e.g., during an outbreak, and/or if new SARS-CoV-2 VOC emerge.
- Universal masking should also be considered in settings where patients are at high risk of infection due to immunosuppression e.g., oncology/haematology.
- Health and care staff are in general **NOT** required to wear facemasks in non-clinical areas e.g., offices, social settings, unless this is **THEIR** personal preference or there are specific issues raised by a risk assessment.

For patients:

- Patients with respiratory symptoms who are required to attend should wear a facemask/covering, if tolerated, or offered one on arrival.
- All other patients are not required to wear a facemask unless this is a personal preference.

For visitors:

- Patients are at high risk of infection due to immunosuppression, e.g., oncology/haematology, visitors may be asked to wear a facemask.
- Visitors and individuals accompanying patients to appointments are not routinely required to wear a facemask unless this is a personal preference.

GP APPRAISAL CHANGES

A new appraisal format has been agreed nationally building on the benefits that were identified in the 2020 format- this will be the appraisal format going forward and will provide sufficient appraisal details for your revalidation. The focus remains on supporting doctors, ensuring their wellbeing and facilitating their reflection on learning and review of practice to facilitate doctor's development. The anticipated preparation time for appraisal going forward is greatly reduced from the traditional format and is anticipated to be around 1-2 hours but will be helped by keeping a brief note of any learning or quality improvement you do that changes your practice as the year progresses.

Of note:

- There is no counting of CPD credits.
- The main change from the 2020 format is the inclusion of a brief commentary on learning, quality improvement and feedback and how it has impacted your practice

An appraisal toolkit must be used (the template is not sufficient on its own). Fourteen Fish and Clarity toolkits have already been updated to the new format which makes the process simple. When you first logon you will be asked if you want to switch- doing so will not lose any information you have already entered. GPs are encouraged to use the new format unless their appraisal is in the next few weeks and they have completed their documentation, however, there will be flexibility this year and the 2020 format will be accepted for appraisals taking place until 31/3/2023.

The MAG form will not be updated, and GPs are encouraged to change to an electronic toolkit as the MAG is no longer fit for purpose and will not be accepted from 1/4/2023.

The new format and supporting information can be found here:

<https://www.aomrc.org.uk/revalidation/medical-appraisal-revalidation/>

Lowri Kew

Clinical Appraisal Lead for GP and RO appraisals

Professional Standards Team NHS England and Improvement Southwest

UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

We've had confirmation from NHSE that CCGs have been asked to commission Initial Health Assessment services in support of new arrivals from Ukraine. Whilst CCGs will be free to determine how best to undertake this, and who from, NHSE have developed an outline specification and a template Local Enhanced Service to support delivery by patients' own registered GP practice when they register, should practices wish to sign up. Whilst we await the details of the Enhanced service there are some additional links available for help and support.

The UKHSA has published a [health guide](#) for Ukrainian arrivals. There is also updated [government advice](#) for Primary Care on arrivals from Ukraine

Several other [resources](#) are available, including translated resources and toolkits from Doctors of The World.

PRACTICE CQC INSPECTIONS

Several Gloucestershire practices have recently had or are in the process of having a CQC inspection. Whilst all inspections may not be identical, please see a summary below of their experience.

- Pre-visit
 - requested to send circa 50 documents

- run Arden's searches within clinical system.
- Full day of GP having access to the clinical system, including a meeting for 2-2.5 hours with GPs from the practice to review findings from searches
- Zoom interviews with staff- All staff requested to complete an anonymous feedback form then asking about training, appraisal etc. They then selected staff for interview including reception lead, HCA, nurses, GPs and PM.
- Full day site visits 9-16:30

Practices should familiarise themselves with the [Arden's searches](#) and ensure that they are reviewing the results of these as it appears they are likely to form a key part of the inspection.

GP ABUSE

A recent [BMJ investigation](#) found that the number of violent incidents at UK general practices recorded by police forces has almost doubled in the past five years. The BMA have produced a [poster](#) against GP abuse for practices to display.

Should practices experience a violent incident please make the LMC aware so that we can provide support with removal of patients or media responses.

MONKEYPOX

Whilst the risk of monkeypox infection remain low, the [UK Health Security Agency \(UKHSA\)](#) is asking people to be alert to any new rashes or lesions on any part of their body.

If you are concerned that a patient may have contracted the disease, use appropriate PPE, including mask and gloves. For confirmed cases of Monkeypox, UKHSA guidance states that FFP3 respirators should be used. Isolate the person whilst seeking advice on next steps from the local sexual health clinic for urgent advice or your [local health protection team](#), and ensure the consultation room is cleaned appropriately afterwards based on [UKHPA advice](#).

Monkeypox is now a designated a [notifiable infectious disease](#) under the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010. This means all doctors in England are required to notify their local council or local Health Protection Team (HPT) if they suspect a patient has monkeypox.

Concerns have been raised with NHS England that specific guidance for primary care has not been provided in relation to the latest outbreak of Monkeypox.

Further information is available on the [UKHSA](#) website.

BMA EMPLOYER ADVISORY SERVICE

The BMA provides an employer advice service for member GP partners and their practice managers. With no expensive contracts, members can get tailored advice from the BMA's specialist team of HR & employment advisers and regulatory knowledge, who can support with:

- HR & employment law case management
- reviewing HR documentation and ensuring legal compliance
- employment tribunal support, and much more.

The service is available to BMA members - [contact the BMA GP employer advisory service](#)

FREE TRAINING AND WEBINARS

Long Covid staff training

13 July 2022 1-2pm – Pulmonary Rehab with Patients with Long Covid Presenter: Rachel Williams, Clinical Specialist Respiratory Physiotherapist-Team Lead, Southwest Respiratory Network NHSE/I Co-Clinical Lead Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

[13 July 2022 1-2pm – Pulmonary Rehab with Patients with Long Covid](#)

20 July 2022 1-2pm – Role of Clinical Staff – Long Covid, POTs and Dysautonomia – Presenter Dr Tim Robinson, Long Covid Clinical Lead

[20 July 2022 1-2pm – Role of Clinical Staff – Long Covid, POTs and Dysautonomia](#)

Qwell training sessions

Qwell are running FREE VIRTUAL SESSIONS to find out more about <https://www.qwell.io/>. Qwell is an adult service (19+) that has been commissioned in Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, and Worcestershire to support people with their mental health and wellbeing. Please find the details below to register for each session through Eventbrite to secure your place.

Qwell for Healthcare Professionals

Wed, 29 June 2022 12:30 – 13:30pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/qwell-for-healthcare-professionals-tickets-349466703317>

An Introduction to Qwell for the Voluntary and Community Sector Professionals

Fri, 1 July 2022 12:00 – 13:00pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/an-introduction-to-qwell-for-vcs-professionals-tickets-349710231717>

An Introduction to Qwell for Carers

Tue, 5 July 2022 12:00 – 13:00pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/an-introduction-to-qwell-for-carers-webinar-tickets-349677323287>

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

A full list of current job adverts is at <http://www.gloslmc.com/blog-job-vacancies.asp> and available below.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE			Date posted	Closing Date
Frampton & Stonehouse Practice Group	Frampton/Stonehouse	Clinical Lead GP	23 Nov 21	Open
Coleford Family Doctors	Coleford	Salaried GP	16 July 21	Open
Lechlade Medical Centre	Lechlade	Salaried GP	2 Feb 22	Open
Royal Crescent Surgery	Cheltenham	GP (4-6 Sessions)	28 Jul 21	Open
St Catherines Surgery	Cheltenham	Salaried GP	4.Aug 21	Open

Mythe Medical Practice	Tewkesbury	Salaried GP	29 Mar 22	Open
Cam & Uley Family Surgery	Gloucestershire	GP Locum	7 Oct 21	Open
Hadwen Health	Gloucester	Partner GP	16 June 22	10 July 22
Forest of Dean	Forest Of Dean	Improved Access Sessions	12.11.21	Open
Calverhay Surgery	Wotton under Edge	Salaried GP	23 Nov 21	Open
West Cheltenham Surgery	Cheltenham	Salaried GP	23 Nov 21	Open
Brunston & Lydbrook Surgery	Coleford	GP Salaried/Partner	23 Nov 21	Open
Drybrook Surgery	Gloucestershire	Salaried GP	16 Mar 21	Open
Cotswold Medical Practice	Bourton on the Water	Partner GP	21 Dec 21	Open
Hilary Cottage Surgery	Fairford Gloucestershire	GP Partner	18 Jan 22	Open
Dockham Surgery	Cinderford	Salaried GP	24 Mar 22	Open
Walnut Tree Surgery	Dursley	Salaried GP	16 Feb 22	Open
Brockworth Surgery	Gloucester	Salaried GP	28 Apr 22	Open
Five Valleys Medical	Stroud	Salaried GP	7 Apr 22	Open
Sixways Clinic	Cheltenham	Salaried GP/Partner	5 Apr 22	Open
Hucclecote Surgery	Gloucester	Adv Nurse Practitioner	12 Apr 22	Open
Five Valleys Medical	Stroud	Triage Practitioner	19 Apr 22	Open
Severnside Medical Practice	Gloucester	Salaried GP	15 June 22	Open
GHAC	Gloucester	Special Interest GP Fellowship	21 Apr 22	Open
Rendcomb Surgery	Cirencester	Salaried GP	28 Apr 22	Open
Upper Thames Medical	Cirencester	Partner & Salaried GP	4 May 22	Open
Forest Health Care	Cinderford/Ruardean	GP	10 May 22	Open
Hilary Cottage Surgery	Fairford Gloucestershire	Salaried GP	18 May 22	Open
Rowcroft Medical Centre	Stroud	Locum/Salaried GP	18 May 22	Open
Lydney Surgery	Gloucestershire	Salaried GP	15 Jun 22	Open
Dockham Road Surgery	Gloucestershire	Practice Manager	16 Jun 22	29 July 22
ELSEWHERE				
Hanham Health	Bristol	GP Opportunities	4 Aug 21	Open
Bampton Medical Practice	Oxford	GP Partner	5 Aug 21	Open
New Barn Surgery	Broadway	Maternity Locum/Salaried GP	22 Oct 21	Open
Broadshires Health Centre	Carterton Oxon	Salaried GP/Partner	2 Feb 22	Open
Newbury Street Practice	Oxford	Partner GP	19 May 22	Open
Newbury Street Practice	Oxford	Salaried GP	19 May 22	Open
GLOUCESTER RD MEDICAL CENTRE	Bristol	GP Associate	21 June 22	Open

Pembroke Road Surgery	Clifton Bristol	Salaried GP	11 May 22	Open
East Tree Health Centre	Bristol	Salaried GP	18 May 22	Open
Haresfield and Kempsey Surgeries	Worcester	Assistant Practice Manager	26 May 22	Open
The Park Surgery	West Sussex	Remote GP	14 June 22	Open
Frome Valley Medical Centre	Bristol	Contracts Administrator	14 June 22	Open
Pembroke Rd Surgery	Clifton Bristol	Salaried GP	28 June 22	19 July 22

REMINDER: If you are advertising with us and fill the vacancy, please let us know so we can take the advert down.