

26 February 2021

Dear Members and Friends,

While the start of 2021 has been challenging, we sincerely hope brighter times are afoot. We are so impressed by the resilience shown by GP teams across the country and the enthusiasm to play the most important role in the battle against COVID 19 by vaccinating patients. By the time of reading this, we hope that you have all been vaccinated for your own protection and safety.

As recently advised, an indemnity from the State is in place for GPs and nurses administering the COVID vaccine and further information can be found in our guidance documents [here](#) and [here](#).

Please remember that for the State Indemnity to apply, it is important that you complete the relevant training specified by the HSE and follow their guidelines concerning the storage, handling, use and administration of the vaccines. The State Indemnity will not cover GPs or practice nurses in respect of their own negligence: e.g wrong site administration, not following storage or handling instructions, not observing patients for time indicated following vaccination. This will fall to the GPs or practice nurses' own indemnifier.

Medisec has confirmed that our members can participate in the HSE run vaccination programme and will have professional indemnity insurance in place per their existing policy terms and conditions. Medisec members will also be covered for any IMC complaint that arises, as this is also not covered by the State Indemnity. As always, we are on hand for any advice you may need in relation to indemnity.

We look forward to the commencement of our new spring series of GP and Practice Team webinars on **Tuesday 02 March 2021** on New Practice Challenges: *How to stay in line when online*. We will cover issues such as social media, online reviews, covert recordings and telemedicine. If you have not yet registered and would like to do so, please click [here](#).

Below, we have included some top tips on risk reduction within your practice, with reference to the administration of the Covid vaccine. We have also included information relating to medical reports for the registration of an Enduring Power of Attorney and in Wardship proceedings, which we hope will be of interest to you.

If any of your practice colleagues would like to subscribe to our Medzine, please ask them to email info@medisec.ie with their details.

Wishing you all the very best for the year ahead and hoping you, your colleagues and families all stay safe.

Don't forget we are available 24/7 to look after you and no issue is too small.

Best Wishes,

Ruth Shipsey & the Medisec team



Off-Site COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic

Medisec has received many queries regarding the suitability of practice car parks, halls or other off-site venues for holding vaccination clinics, bearing in mind both the need to socially distance patients, and to accommodate patients who may have reduced mobility, as well as being aware of the importance of efficient vaccination delivery in all age cohorts.

Please note that the HSE has laid down clear guidelines in the operational document '*Clinical Guidance for COVID-19 Vaccination*' which is available as a live document online [here](#):
(please ensure that you are referring to the most current version of this live document)

While the HSE standards do not preclude the use of certain off site venues, their standards and guidelines must be adhered to at all times in order to avail of State Indemnity which excludes acts of negligence by the doctor.

Read more for additional factors to consider in this regard.

[Read More](#)

Good Communication with Patients – A Key to Avoiding Complaints

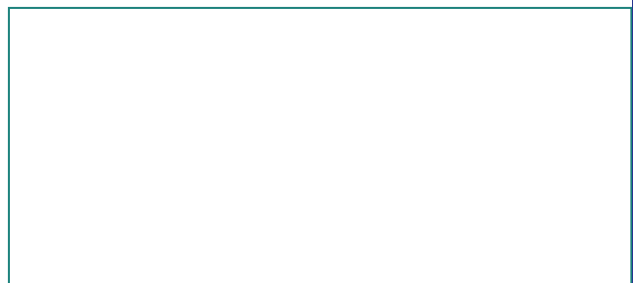
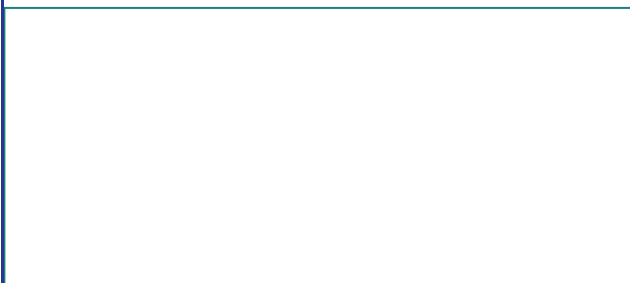
(This article is one of a two-part series, in this edition, we focus on the importance of good communication with patients. In our next Medzine we will provide guidance on communication with colleagues within the practice)

Good communication is fundamental to providing high-quality healthcare and is central to safe patient care and the doctor-patient relationship. Poor communication is well recognised as a key contributing factor to patient complaints and litigation. This is reflected in the number of complaints to the Medical Council. In 2019, 35% (n =170) of all complaints related to communication.¹

[Read More](#)



Clinical Corner





Risk Reduction Tips- The 10 R's of Safe Vaccine Storage

Now that we are approaching the rollout of COVID 19 vaccinations in General Practice, it is a perfect opportunity to check your vaccination refrigerator and ensure that your house is in order.

The following are some practical tips to ensure safe vaccine storage.

[Read More](#)



Ten Tips for Addressing COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Among Patients

The current roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccination programme throughout Ireland heralds the start of the long and complex journey towards controlling a pandemic that has taken an enormous toll on society and continues to cause millions of infections and deaths across the world. It is of paramount importance that the various COVID-19 vaccines are delivered to as many eligible patients as possible; safely and efficiently. Some patients, however, are reluctant to receive the vaccine, for a variety of reasons, and we would like to offer some tips to help improve vaccine uptake for your patients.

[Read More](#)

High Court Directions: Enduring Powers of Attorney (EPAs) & Wardship Applications

The President of the High Court issued new practice directions that came into effect in October and November 2020 relevant to doctors preparing medical affidavits/ certificates/ reports in relation to the registration of an Enduring Power of Attorney and in Wardship Proceedings.

While the requirements for what must be included in the above medical documents are similar in respect of both processes, there are subtle differences and we have set out the full list of requirements from each practice direction so that you can clearly see the specifics of what must be included, depending on the application.

[Read More](#)



Clarification on Nurse Coverage with Medisec Policies

The professional indemnity cover arranged by Medisec extends to practice nurses if the nurse is employed directly

by the sole trader GP. Our underwriters, Allianz require the name of the practice nurse to be added to the GP policy in this case.

Where a partnership, company or other legal entity is the nurse's employer, a practice malpractice policy is available. It provides cover for the vicarious liability of the entity in respect of the malpractice of employees of a GP practice including practice nurses. All GPs working in the practice require their own professional indemnity, as per IMC guidelines.

[Click here](#) to view our guidance document on cover for practice nurses and employees.

Get in touch

Due to Covid 19, our offices are currently closed; please visit our [website](#) for all our contact details and do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries.

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RT @drbosheaGP: It may be a bit of a cliché...but....(yes, you've guessed it...) ...the fate of our discipline is in great hands ! #BEaGP @rosabl...

yesterday · reply

@EimearCBourke @PracthealthInfo A subject close to our hearts ♥

2 days ago · reply

