

We look after you



02 April 2020

It is difficult to put into words the heartfelt thanks and praise that we have for all GPs and indeed all healthcare professionals who are battling through these challenging times and continuing to provide a first-class service to patients. You are voluntarily putting yourself at risk and your dedication to providing a service to your patients is inspiring. We can only imagine the struggle, commitment, and dedication for all healthcare professionals at this time; you are indeed all 'heroes'.

Given the increased and varied workload for GPs at this time, we have answered some of the frequently asked questions put to us by members relating to medico-legal and indemnity issues which we hope will provide you with some clarity and reassurance at this time.

Medisec's commitment during this crisis is to support you and your safety is of paramount importance to us; please don't forget to look after yourself and your loved ones and remember that we are here to look after you.

Take care,

The Medisec Team

Pronouncement and certification of death

How should you pronounce and certify death in circumstances where there is a risk of transmission of COVID-19:

- to the GP and in turn to other patients; or,
- by the GP to a bereaved family or to staff / residents in a residential facility?

The Coroners Society of Ireland has issued guidance regarding pronouncement and certification of death during the pandemic, confirming that a competent, trained person can pronounce a death if a doctor is unavailable.

[Read More](#)

Frequently asked questions: Indemnity concerns during Covid 19

We have received many queries from our members relating to cover and we hope the questions and answers below will give you some comfort and clarify during this time.

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Fitness to work certification

Many members have asked whether they should issue a "fitness for work" certificate requested by a patient following a period of self-isolation.

Read more for our guidance in that regard.

[Read More](#)

Separated parents and access arrangements

Your patient is a separated parent and wants you to write a letter to say that access arrangements for the child to visit their other parent should be suspended in light of COVID-19. What should you do?

Many patients are now seeking advice from GPs about access arrangements during the COVID-19 pandemic in light of public health advice and government directions. Particular concerns have been raised regarding minor patients travelling between households where there might be other vulnerable family members or elderly grandparents residing or where minor patients themselves; or their parents or guardians, have underlying conditions which make them more vulnerable to COVID 19. Medisec recently wrote to the Family Law Committee of the Law Society of Ireland seeking advice on the matter and we have been advised that the following guidelines have issued from the Committee on 26 March 2020 which we hope will be of assistance to you:

[Read More](#)

GDPR - How should I handle access requests during COVID-19?

The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (“ODPC”) issued some welcome, practical guidance on 25 March, acknowledging that the current public health crisis may limit the ability of organisations to handle GDPR access requests within the specified legal timelines including because some frontline service providers may need to divert resources to priority work areas, while others may be operating at reduced capacity and some will be closed.

Please read more to review this guidance.

[Read More](#)

Top Tips- Risk Reduction during Covid 19

To prevent compromising our healthcare system in Ireland, GPs have a huge responsibility to provide ongoing quality care to patients, in parallel to dealing with the COVID-19 outbreak. We know that this is a tall order in these demanding times and we have highlighted below some areas within your practice to keep at the forefront during these busy times.

[Read More](#)

Additional queries raised during Covid 19

We have received some further queries from members at this time to include concerns relating to:

- blood testing kits; and,
- what you should do if a patient informs you that they are not willing to self-isolate.

Read more for our guidance relating to the above queries.

[Read More](#)

Looking After You



Taking care of yourself and encouraging your team to do the same is crucial at this time of crisis. In providing care to your patients you may feel at times quite overwhelmed, exhausted, stressed and anxious. However, if you fail to look after yourself you cannot, in turn, support your staff or look after the patients who rely on you.

If you need to seek confidential, professional advice please do not hesitate to contact Dr Ide Delargy through the Practitioner Health Matters Programme (PHMP), details of which are available [here](#).

Dr Andree Rochfort and the ICGP's Doctors' Health in Practice Programme aims to promote and support the healthcare and self-care of GPs and GP Trainees; for further information please click [here](#).

Read more for a number of simple tips to follow to build resilience for you and your team and please remember that the Medisec team is here to support and assist you in whatever way we can during these difficult and challenging times.

[Read More](#)

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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