

In the current Covid-19 climate, Medisec is proud to support all our members who are providing a first-class service to their patients in these challenging circumstances.

We are aware of many GPs who are not only working on the front line, but going beyond their duties in providing personal care to patients, checking on those who are isolated and vulnerable and offering them comfort and support, as well as the occasional socially distant delivery!

We know many members are helping out colleagues who have been taken ill or who are self-isolating, by offering help with cover and sharing the workload, and in addition many practices have been sharing their limited supplies of PPE to ensure colleagues are protected. All this on a background of managing regular patients, reassuring and keeping staff safe and well, and keeping up to date with the daily changes in COVID-19 protocols and guides.

Meanwhile we in Medisec are aware of the importance of being available to members who find themselves with new dilemmas and altered circumstances, and we strive to offer as always our prompt responses with support and advice when required. This latest Medzine includes guidance on how to maintain effective communication and teamwork in the ever changing world of general practice. We are delighted to include an article by Dr Nuala O'Connor regarding Infection prevention and control of guidance on recording clinical notes safely during the current pandemic to minimise the risk of acquiring COVID-19 infection. We also have tips on record keeping during the pandemic and address some sensitive issues such as discussions with patients regarding advance care planning.

We remind you to look after yourself and your loved ones and remember that we are here to look after you.

Take care,

The Medisec Team

Infection Prevention and Control-

Recording clinical notes safely during the COVID-19 crisis and minimising risk of inadvertent contamination

Dr Nuala O Connor, ICGP GP Covid-19 Clinical Lead provides valuable insight with regard to the extended use of personal protective equipment PPE.

[Read More](#)

The importance of good medical records

During the COVID-19 pandemic, when GPs are under significant pressure and facing new challenges daily, good medical records are imperative to ensure continuity of care to patients. The medical records that you keep today will be vital as documentary evidence in the future if there is a complaint or claim made against you.

Read more for further guidance.

[Read More](#)

How do I ensure safe prescribing during the current COVID-19 pandemic?

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, Minister Harris signed new amendments to prescribing regulations into effect. These measures are intended to alleviate pressure on GPs and pharmacists and to facilitate patient access to prescriptions.

Read more for the key amendments and our general guidance on prescribing.

[Read More](#)

The provision of Termination of Pregnancy (TOP) services during COVID-1

The Department of Health has issued a Revised Model of Care for TOP services during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The Minister for Health, Simon Harris has confirmed that an “examination” for the purposes of TOP consultations can take place remotely.

Read more for further guidance.

[Read More](#)

Challenging conversations during COVID-19 – advance healthcare planning

Amid the chaos and challenges created by COVID-19, GPs may be faced with making difficult decisions regarding the critical care of some of their patients, in particular, the elderly (whether residing in a nursing home or at home in the community) or those who have a progressive life-limiting illness.

If some vulnerable patients contract COVID-19 they may deteriorate rapidly and a decision on the appropriate course of action will have to be made quickly. Vulnerable patients are likely to be very worried and may want to discuss treatment preferences and priorities in order to be prepared if they contract COVID-19.

We have set out some considerations for you to take into account if patients wish to discuss advance healthcare preferences, including end of life care.

[Read More](#)



Examinations for an Involuntary Admission during Covid 19

You have been presented with an application to have a patient involuntarily admitted to an approved centre and have been asked to review the patient for the

Covid -19 Community Hubs

You would like to offer your services to work in a COVID-19 Community Hub.

purposes of a Form 5 recommendation. You have specific concerns about examining the patient as they have complained of symptoms indicative of COVID-19. You are also aware that this patient may not maintain social distance during the consultation. Given the risk of transmission of the virus, you think it is unsafe to examine the patient in person.

Read more to consider your options.

[Read More](#)

As a Medisec member, you query if you are indemnified to do this work?

Read more for clarification on this issue.

[Read More](#)

Confidentiality – vulnerable groups and public health interests due to COVID-19

You have received a request from the HSE to disclose information in respect of a group of patients living in a shared accommodation setting who are particularly vulnerable in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, should you comply with this request?

Read more for our guidance.

[Read More](#)



Maintaining effective team communication during COVID-19

Healthcare teams are coping with unprecedented challenges because of the COVID-19 pandemic. General practice systems and processes have had to change their *modus operandi* in order to keep patients and staff safe. Although reception staff may still be going into the practice to work, the majority of their patient contact is via telephone and some GPs are working from home undertaking telephone consultations.

Given that GPs and practice staff members are likely to be experiencing stress during the pandemic, for many reasons, it is important for GPs to maintain effective communication with all team members.

In recent days, new Community Hubs have been set up to help with the COVID-19 outbreak, and staff working in these Hubs may not have worked together previously, making teamwork even more challenging. Due to operational changes, it is difficult in the current circumstances, for GPs to continue to promote teamwork which is essential for providing effective care to patients.

Read more for practical guidance in this regard.

[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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