

Dear Members and Friends,

Even though it is a summer like no other, we hope that you are able to take some form of well-earned break over the coming months to switch off and look after yourselves.

As GP practices around the country get used to adapted ways of working, we are pleased to launch three new Medisec posters asking patients to wear masks in order to protect you, your staff members and patients. (See below for details on how to order a poster for your practice.)

In this edition of our Medzine, we address current issues arising for GP practices such as recent Infection Control guidelines, requests for “fitness to attend crèche” letters, treating tourists/visitors and the pitfalls that come with a rise in email traffic. We have included reminders about the much-welcomed Medical Council Guidelines reducing CPD requirements for 2020 / 2021 and the position on Medisec cover for patients opting for home births.

Our clinical corner covers monitoring patients on high-risk medication and issues that arise when using surgical glue. We share a case study of a diagnostic error from the other side of the Atlantic and a member has been kind enough to share their own “near miss” story in the hope that others can learn from it.

Of relevance to the “near miss story”, we have a popular poster available informing patients that they must give 48 hours’ notice of a repeat prescription which can help manage patients’ expectations in that regard. Contact us if you would like a hard copy or a digital copy of this poster for your practice.

At Medisec this month, we were excited to expand our offering to consultants from 1 July 2020 thanks to our new arrangement with MedPro. There has been a huge level of interest to date from consultants all over the country and their representative bodies and we look forward to welcoming them as members of Medisec.

Medisec’s promise to our members has always been to secure the best professional indemnity insurance and to support them at every stage of their career. Our new relationship with MedPro allows us to continue to deliver on that promise to GPs and consultants alike by offering contractual occurrence based professional indemnity cover backed by the highest levels of financial security and local expertise.

Medisec has also launched a fresh new website. We hope you like it as much as we do but please feel free to send us any feedback on how it is working for you. Many of our risk resources and medico-legal advices are available [here](#) for you to view.

We are now inviting new members to apply via the online system. If you are an existing Medisec member (pre July 2020) and need copies of any policy documents or any assistance from membership, please do not hesitate to contact us and we would be delighted to assist you. Upon your next renewal (after 25 November 2020), you will be invited to renew with us via our new online portal where your renewal documents will then be available to you electronically.

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



The "Staycation"- tips for treating visitors/tourists

With the recent relaxing of travel restrictions and the expected rise in popularity of the "staycation" this year, GPs are now more likely to have an increased number of visitors to their particular area who may need medical treatment; this could range from minor injuries and medication requests to emergency situations. In more remote areas, this may be more prevalent where there are limited numbers of GPs and hospital facilities available.

We have set out some factors for consideration below.

[Read More](#)

Certification- fitness to attend crèche

With crèches and childcare facilities re-opening as part of the lifting of restrictions on 29 June 2020, many GPs reported a sudden increase in requests from parents seeking letters confirming their children are fit to attend crèche. GPs have queried the necessity to provide these letters and expressed concern about the resultant increase in workload if these requests become routine throughout childcare settings, particularly when we move into the autumn/winter period.



[Read More](#)

HOT OFF THE PRESS!!

Get one of our "Wear a Mask" posters for your practice. Choose from three A3 prints (below) which you can easily frame.

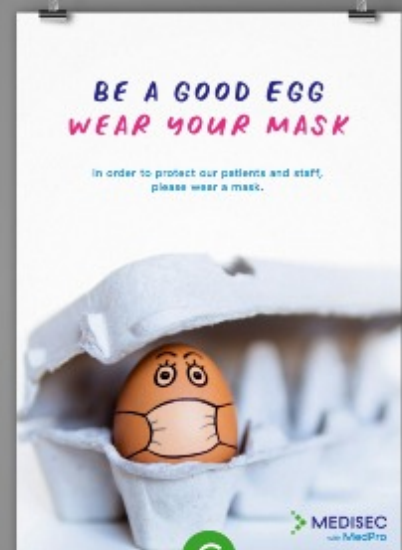
Contact info@medisec.ie or telephone Danielle on 1800 460 400 or 01 6610504 to order your poster today!



A



B



C

Approaching the New Normality: Infection Control – Current Guidelines

As practices around the country are beginning to see a larger number of patients face to face, while still triaging and consulting remotely, the importance of establishing new standards of infection control is high on everyone's agenda. Patients, nursing staff, admin staff and GPs themselves need to feel safe and protected in their work environment.

[Read More](#)

High-Risk Medication- catching up with monitoring

Everyone's practice has been dealing with massive upheaval in the past months. Who knew on 01 January 2020 that we would be working like we are today?

Many extremely organised and well managed practices are only now picking up the pieces of day to day issues and catching up with routine procedures such as blood monitoring and depot injections.

[Read More](#)

Surgical Adhesive

Medisec is aware of several unfortunate incidents involving the use of surgical adhesive, particularly involving children. All of the incidents involve the glue inadvertently running into the eye with subsequent adhesion and irritation. Luckily there is generally no long-lasting damage but an incident where the eye is glued shut causes extreme upset to patient, parent and doctor alike.

[Read More](#)

Update on CPD requirements for 2020 / 2021

The Medical Council has published interim Guidelines modifying the Maintenance of Professional Competence requirements for the period 2020-2021, to assist doctors who may find it difficult to complete the usual CPD requirements as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic.

[Read More](#)



Case Study from the USA

Failure to diagnose Myocardial Infarction leads to tragic outcome

Irish and US physicians face many of the same healthcare system challenges such as the current pandemic, workforce shortages, trolley medicine, aging population, lack of funding and burnout. We read the same literature, attend the same conferences and most of the clinical medicine is the same with some differences in the delivery system, legal and regulatory environment. The core issues around medical malpractice such as failure or delay in diagnoses and treatment are universal. The root causes such as problems with communication, documentation, hand-overs, test results, emerging technologies and consent are similar.

Both Medisec and MedPro share the same core values and commitment to defend physicians, prevent claims before they happen, and improve patient safety and outcomes. We believe that by sharing knowledge, insights and resources that one plus one can equal three.

[Read More](#)

Sharing a Near Miss Incident

As discussed in previous MedZines, case studies of near misses are a useful education tool in risk reduction and patient safety. One of our GP members has been kind enough to share with us the following “near miss” experience with a view to helping other GPs avoid a similar scenario and to assess what practices and policies can be put in place to avoid a repeat in the future.

We would be delighted to hear from you should you wish to share a near miss incident with us.



[Read More](#)



E-mail communication

Some GP practices may be relying heavily on email communications at the moment due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Phonelines are likely to be busy and requests for appointments / telephone calls etc may come through by email. Some practices may invite patients to request repeat prescriptions by email. While email is an efficient way to communicate with patients, it comes with associated risks, particularly as email “traffic” increases. It is more important than ever therefore to be conscious of the risks that can come with emails such as missing important information, confidentiality, professional boundaries and duty of care.

[Read More](#)

Home Birth- what it means and how it affects your cover

Given concerns over COVID 19 and visiting restrictions on hospitals, some antenatal patients may opt for a home birth. It is very important for Medisec members to be aware that they are **not** covered under their policy of insurance to provide ante-natal or postnatal care under the Mother and Infant scheme to a patient opting for a home birth.

We set out the steps to take if a patient informs you that they are choosing to opt for a home birth.

[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.

For general queries please telephone **1800 460 400** or **01 6610504**

General e-mail: info@medisec.ie

Ruth Shipsey, CEO,
ruthshipsey@medisec.ie

Danielle Gannon, PA to CEO,
daniellegannon@medisec.ie

[@MedisecIreland](#)

RT @BallySnr: I have just published my final podcast on COPD. I will discuss the latest NICE 2019 & GOLD guidelines. I hope you find it use...

22 hours ago [reply](#)

RT @ICGPnews: #GPs & #PracticeNurses don't forget to register for this evening's [#ICGPWednesdayWebinar](#) February 2nd at 8pm. See below for...

yesterday [reply](#)

