

## Fit for Work Scheme

You may be aware from some recent press coverage of this scheme.

Fit for Work Scotland, will be delivered by the Scottish Government, on behalf of the UK Government.

Fit for Work provides an occupational health assessment and general health and work advice to employees, employers and General Practitioners (GPs) to help individuals stay in or return to work. Fit for Work has two elements:

□ **Assessment:** Once the employee has reached, or is expected to reach, four weeks of sickness absence they will normally be referred by their GP for an assessment by an occupational health professional, who will look at all the issues preventing the employee from returning to work.

□ **Advice:** Employers, employees and GPs will be able to access advice via a phone line and website.

The primary referral route for an assessment will be via the GP. Guidance will make clear that referral should be the default option, unless individuals meet the criteria for when referral maybe inappropriate.

This scheme, whilst offering routes to occupational health advice for patients, has not come with any support for general practice and you will not be surprised that we are less than impressed with this.

Whilst practices are free to engage with this new service if you feel it would benefit your patients there is no contractual requirement to take on this additional referral burden within your practice.

## SAEs, Inappropriate Discharges & requests

Thank you to all the Practices who continue to send us copies of these, and the template letters they have sent back to Secondary Care highlighting these - we continue to action these on your behalf.

However, can we ask that you ensure that patient details are anonymised as we have noticed that many of these still show the patients, name address and date of birth.

It is of course useful if you leave the CHI number in as this helps to trace the incident/patient when we raise these with our secondary care colleagues.

## Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) – eKIS

eKIS should be available to ambulance paramedic crews when attending patients. We have discovered that this is not always possible due to several reasons. The first is lack of CHI detail for the patient as the call is generated – this is obviously not an issue when practices call for ambulances but is regularly an issue when the call comes from the public.

When available eKIS can be downloaded to ambulance crews quickly but they do not always have access as this comes to a tablet computer that they do not have in the front of the ambulance. There is a plan to move to lighter weight tablets that can be used in the front of vehicles which will allow better access by paramedic crews' en-route to calls.

## Contacting the LMC via “snail” mail

We have noticed that some of the mail we receive from practices, whilst very welcome, is coming via the Postal service so we thought we would remind you that you can send mail to us via the internal mail system without expense to your practice.

**Dr Andrew Thomson**  
**Medical Secretary**

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