

## **GP Alert System (GPAS) Introduction**

We are all very aware that GP practices are extremely busy, although our ability to accurately quantify these workload levels and resulting pressure points has so far been a challenge.

However, in 2020, colleagues at Devon LMC developed a simple system (General Practice Alert System - GPAS) to collect a small amount of anonymised data from practices which is then presented in a simple to understand format, and allowed them to illustrate the strain that General Practice in Devon was under to the broader system.

As part of a national roll out project, we've decided to introduce GPAS in Lothian to allow us to gain and share an accurate picture of General Practice workload with Lothian Health Board and other key stakeholders.

### **What does this mean for you?**

Each week we will contact practices with a link to an easy to complete form and ask them to provide us with 4 pieces of information based on their total Monday appointment activity. While it's difficult to be prescriptive as every practice will operate slightly differently, in general we want to capture activity that involves a clinical review of the patient rather than activities such as acute prescriptions, medicine management, docman review and general admin.

Examples of the activities we would consider contacts are;

- e-consults
- surgery consults
- Home visits
- 3<sup>rd</sup> party encounters

While this might initially take a bit longer to gather, once you're familiar with the process we would expect that this would only take around 5 minutes or so each week to complete.

Along with your patient list size, this allows the system to track activity both at a local and wider level, and while this doesn't include your administrative workload, this clinical workload displayed as a trend will allow us to demonstrate the changing General Practice activity levels to the wider system – a powerful tool as we face a difficult time in General Practice.

The data we collect remains entirely anonymous and individual data is not shared, with the report being issued at each Lothian locality level.