

Practice Guidance for Out of Area Patient letter

To All Senior GPs via Practice Managers

Dear All,

As we are seeing a growing number of practices close their lists, we understand that more practices are receiving out of area allocations. Lothian LMC have drafted the attached letter that practices may choose to send to patients who are allocated from outside their agreed boundary. The LMC recognises the pressure across the system and wish to support those practices who strive to keep their lists open, but will struggle to meet the needs of out of area patients. Whilst **it is part of the GMS contract that house visits are provided to patients requiring this**, this letter looks to highlight to patients that requesting a home visit puts significant pressure on a practice, particularly when they live outside practice boundaries, and to strongly consider this position. We advise therefore that practices are **contractually obliged to provide a house visit**, but as a practice you are also accepting them onto your list to avoid a poor patient experience and being removed from your practice list immediately. Which of course is **still a legitimate alternative**.

We strongly advise practices to keep a list of all out of area allocations, as when it is clear you cannot provide home visits you would have no choice but to remove all out of area allocations, not simply those that require home visiting, as this would be discriminatory.

We hope you find this of use and appreciate none of this is ideal, but continuing to provide safe, high quality healthcare in very difficult circumstances requires us all to do what we can. Thank you for considering.

LMC office

May 2023