

### **Update on Sandyford Services March 2023 – for attention of Primary Care services**

This update contains a lot of information based on enquiries the service has received – **please read & distribute** within your teams. All information is correct at time of writing.

#### **Current Sandyford Sexual Health service provision** locations and days:

5 days a week: Sandyford Central, Renfrewshire (New Sneddon St) and East (Parkhead HC), Woodside HC

3 days a week in Govanhill Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays (4 days as of mid April) - LARC, STI testing, YP on Monday evening

1 day a week in Greenock (Wednesday), Kirkintilloch (Tuesday) and Clydebank HC (Thursday) Clydebank - LARC, STI testing, YP clinic. Vale of Leven (Monday), - LARC, STI testing

**Professional support** and advice are available via

[ggc.sandyfordprofessionalsupport@nhs.scot](mailto:ggc.sandyfordprofessionalsupport@nhs.scot) for all GUM/STI/contraception queries

[ggc.menopausesupport@nhs.scot](mailto:ggc.menopausesupport@nhs.scot) for all menopause related queries.

Sandyford website professional section has accessible clinical protocols with lots of information:

<https://www.sandyford.scot/professionals/clinical-guidance/>

**URGENT** clinical advice is available by contacting the business support team at Sandyford on 0141 211 8605, who will be able to direct your call to the GUM or SRH 'Doctor of the Day'. Appointments or non urgent advice is not available via this number.

#### **Clinical Services Information**

**Emergency contraception**: Oral EC or emergency coil insertion is available at the 3 main sites with urgent access (<48 hours but with telephone triage to assess appointment time requirement).

**New start or continuation long-acting reversible contraception (LARC)**: Coil and implant fitting appointments available. Online booking preferred but appointments can be booked via phone for those without online access. Approximately half of these appointments are available to be booked far in advance with the remainder being released 1–2 weeks prior to the clinic date. No wait list.

**Deep implant removal** clinics provided – regional service with referrals being placed on a waiting list. Current wait approximately 6 months.

**New start or continuation non-LARC**: No ability to provide repeat prescriptions or direct to community pharmacy. If consultation is in the virtual clinic, only the progestogen-only pill can be given if there is no recorded BP/BMI within the past year. There will be communication to primary care via letter on the prescription of chosen method given.

**STI/BBV testing**: Appointments for no consultation STI testing (for those without symptoms) are available via phone or online. These appointments are available at most sites.

STI management: For those with symptoms of an acute STI, there is rapid access service (<2 working days) which is accessed via telephone (with triage).

We are seeing a rise in STI diagnoses in NHS GGC, with the highest positive Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea rates since pre-pandemic, and therefore a rise in demand for management of these. We work closely with WoSSVC to develop improved STI testing for Gonorrhoea and Mycoplasma Genitalium with rapid antibiotic sensitivity tests to allow for faster treatment and more treatment options e.g. oral antibiotics with remote management.

\*Gonorrhoea: Please note this requires microbiology culture tests, as well as NAAT, and management should be via Sandyford services for IM ceftriaxone (unless sensitivity to oral ciprofloxacin is proven)

Monkeypox: Clinical assessment for monkeypox for people with genital symptoms and/or Men who have sex with men is provided via Sexual Health services and the number of cases are declining.

Abortion Care: There is unprecedented demand for abortion services in GGC alongside no routine service for surgical abortions and limited availability for in-patient medication abortions in acute services. The Sandyford service provides full abortion care management with telemedicine and home abortions, including home delivery of medications. Face to face appointments remain for those who require it and for post abortion LARC. Patients can call directly for a telephone consultation 0141 211 8620. Please note that in Clyde area, there is a service in Acute Gynae accessible for people from this area, which may have a shorter wait time. Current wait time for Sandyford abortion care service is approximately 10 days.

Vasectomy counselling and procedures: Vasectomy procedures are at full capacity but demand is high with a waiting list of approximately 48 weeks currently. We will hold both self-referrals and GP referrals in a waiting list.

Gynaecology/Complex SRH: Service at full capacity but large increase in demand with referrals x3 previous and current wait is currently approximately 15 months. All GP referrals must be via SCI Gateway and will be held in a waiting list. Patients may be sent an 'opt-in' letter or contacted to see if they still need an appointment as some have been referred to both acute Gynae and cSRH services. Please note re Urgent '2 week wait' referrals: We have been receiving some referrals for this but Sandyford do not have a one-stop clinic for this presentation. Please re-refer this patient via SCI to acute gynaecology using the PMB or urgent pathway.

Menopause: Majority of referrals are dealt with by email advice to GP (available as above) or telephone call to patient. Appointments available for those requiring this wait time is approximately 6 months.

Chronic STI/longer term conditions: A new service model for genital warts management started in November 2022. There is a long waiting list (currently 10 months) and in the interim, it is often helpful to initiate topical treatment with Podophyllotoxin (Warticon/Condyline) – Available on formulary.

Genital Dermatology conditions: Presentations of genital skin conditions (other than warts) where STI has been excluded (or very low risk), including non acute ulcerative disease or specific dermatosis, should be referred via SCI store to local dermatology service. Phimosi should be referred to urology and possible genital skin tumours, should be directly referred to urology, gynaecology or dermatology as appropriate.

Dr Becky Metcalfe, Clinical Director  
Sandyford Sexual Health Services Date prepared: 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023

HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP): Full service provided.

HIV PEPSE: Full face to face service provided with urgent appointment (same day)

Other service queries we have received:

Sexual Problems Service: Due to staffing pressures and increase in demand, current waiting list is 8 months. Accepting GP and self referral for patients within GGC.

Counselling services (SCASS): This service has a very long waiting list currently and is about to undergo a service review to address this. It currently accepts referrals in relation to problems forming healthy sexual relationships or time urgent referrals from within our services e.g. from TOPAR service.

Colposcopy : This service is not provided in Sandyford, with all colposcopy services being within acute Gyn services.

Genital cosmetic surgery/labioplasty: Please note this is not offered at all across NHS GGC services.

## **Training**

We now have a Turas module for CPD in Sexual & Reproductive Health. This is ideal for registered practitioners who are looking for a refresher in SRH related issues. You can view the module here - [Sexual and reproductive health | Turas | Learn \(nhs.scot\)](#). You must have a TURAS account to access this module and your professional role settings must be set to one of the following: General Practitioner, General Practitioner Trainee, General Practitioner Nurse, District Nurse, or Adult Nurse. If you still cannot access the module please contact Turas support. [E-LFH](#) also have modules for SRH which many primary care services staff may find useful.

DFSRH, implant and coil training are available at Sandyford services. Please see the website <https://www.sandyford.scot/professionals/training-professional-resources/> for further information.

Sandyford are currently providing coil and implant 'refresher' sessions for those who have been trained in these procedures previously but have not been able to provide LARC in recent times and wish to refresh their skills. These sessions are charged at £75 per half day and limited to one half day per clinician. Please note that if you previously held a Letter of Competence with the FSRH and this has lapsed, you will need to complete the qualification from the beginning. Please email [Gillian.Hope@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:Gillian.Hope@ggc.scot.nhs.uk) to arrange refresher sessions or discuss individual circumstances around recertification.

The FSRH have released recent guidance on **coil removal** and a short video which provides training on this straightforward procedure. It is a very straightforward and quick procedure, and there is currently a lengthy wait to access this at Sandyford services. It may be useful for practice nurses and other staff <https://www.fsrh.org/education-and-training/fsrh-bitesize-intrauterine-device-iud-removal/>.

We are currently unable to offer any shadowing sessions outside of our formal commitments to local universities. We are working to reopen these opportunities soon and will communicate once we are able to accommodate these sessions.