



Issue 53/Thursday, 29 October 2020

This is the latest round-up of information for GP practices, produced by South East London CCG. Should you have any questions or need advice, contact your local borough primary care team in the first instance; they will escalate anything they can't resolve to south east London's Coronavirus co-ordination centre

Please check for any borough-specific information, which will be attached to this bulletin by your borough primary care commissioning team.

Flu and immunisation

NHS London update on child flu programme

NHS London's Immunisation Team has just released a handy [update](#) which includes useful information on:

- Timetabling for 'call' and 'recall' letters; and
- Nasal spray alternatives

They have also re-iterated the request for practices in London to focus on vaccinating children, "*as uptake in this cohort is worryingly low.*"

Comms toolkit for 2 to 3-year-olds

In light of the above, South East London CCG has produced a comms toolkit with a suite of tailored resources for this cohort.

If you would like to request digital resources in a particular format or want to request print resources to be sent to a particular location, please email:

selccg.communications@nhs.net

Flu and immunisation (continued)

NHS London updates its flu stakeholder toolkit

Please find their latest [flu stakeholder toolkit](#) with:

- New social media assets, leaflets, posters, web banners;
 - Messages to use on local alert levels and the flu vaccine;
 - Messages to use about supply
-

Primary Care frequently asked questions

A 42-page [guide](#) aimed at helping primary care professionals with answers to some of the key questions around supplies and contracts.

Ordering additional adult flu vaccine stock

On 9 October, DHSC wrote to GP practices to confirm the process by which GPs will be able to access the additional adult flu vaccine stock secured to support the expanded vaccination programme this season.

GP practices are now invited to begin ordering or pre-ordering this supply from manufacturers.

NHS London Immunisation has provided a briefing note to accompany the news (released 22 October) and we are linking to it [here](#), in case you missed it last week.

Ordering flu vaccines for winter 2021/22

SEL CCG has received a number of enquiries from GP practices about ordering flu vaccines for next winter, 2021/22. We understand that there have been multiple and somewhat pressurising communications from vaccine suppliers to encourage practices to order now or risk delayed delivery.

NHS South East London CCG are considering our position on underwriting vaccine orders for next year. Like GP practices, we do not know whether flu targets will remain at 75 per cent again next winter, nor what our final uptake will be in south east London in 2020/21 as a measure of what might be possible next year. We are also awaiting guidance on what the recommended vaccines will be for next year.

We will confirm this with south east London GP practices in the coming weeks, hopefully making it easier for practices to confirm their 2021/22 flu orders with suppliers.

Latest news

What do you think about this bulletin?

The SEL CCG GP bulletin started in April 2020 as a way to provide up-to-date and reliable information about Covid-19 for GPs.

But six months on is it still helpful? Can we improve it? Should it have a wider remit?

To answer these questions, we've designed a super [short survey](#) which will only take five minutes to complete. Your responses will really help us plan better communications with you, and we promise to publish the results here so you can see what people think across the whole of our patch. Thanks in advance.

Weekly update on staff Covid-19 testing

Please find a [link](#) to our weekly update on testing for primary care staff in south east London provided by the SEL Covid-19 Testing and Vaccination Delivery Team.

Covid-19 data sharing

A message from the Our Healthier South East London digital team

(In the context of the [Health Service Regulations 2002 COPI \(Control of Patient Information\)](#))

In light of the current challenges and risks posed to health and care services and the public, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the OHSEL Integrated Care System Digital Team, on behalf of the SEL ICS Partners, is establishing Covid-19 specific data sharing from GP practices across South East London.

This will enable GP practices, managing on the front line, as well as Integrated Care System Partners, the CCG, Borough leaders and other key health and care professionals working at a London level, to better support the Covid-19 situation and response.

Please activate the necessary data sharing when requested to do so.

This [22 October letter](#) from OHSEL Head of Programmes explains this request in more

NHSE London 111 First campaign

On Monday 26 October NHSE launched their public campaign to encourage patients considering going to A&E to call NHS 111 first.

From 1 December, NHS 111 will be able to arrange an urgent face-to-face A&E appointment during an allocated time slot anywhere in London, if someone needs it.

This will mean shorter waiting times and fewer people in A&E. (continued)

Arrangements are also in place to let A&Es know if shielding patients are coming so they can be kept safe.

Queen Elizabeth Hospital has been using this system since the end of September.

Our other hospitals in south east London will go live with this over the coming weeks.

Anyone who arrives at A&E without calling NHS 111 will still receive medical care, with those needing emergency treatment prioritised.

The NHSE campaign also promotes primary care by highlighting the variety of ways patients can access GP consultations.

If you'd like to know more please read the NHSE [press release](#)

Virtual seminars and conferences

Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

Guy's and St Thomas' has two upcoming virtual seminars for GPs and practice nurses.

Update on maternity care for GPs and practice nurses

1.30 to 2.30pm, Friday 6 November

Dr Manju Chandiramani, Consultant Obstetrician and Clinical Lead for Maternity Assessment Unit at Guy's and St Thomas', would like to invite you to a one hour interactive virtual seminar where you will learn how to improve the patient referrals and the management of antenatal and postnatal care. Questions will be taken at the end of the talk.

This event counts for one CPD point. To book [click here](#)

Ophthalmology for primary care

1.30 to 2.30pm, Wednesday 11 November

Ms Elodie Azan, Consultant Ophthalmologist, invites you to a one-hour interactive seminar with a practical overview of ophthalmologist cases in primary care.

Register [here](#). You'll then be sent an invitation link to join the seminar.

This talk counts for one CPD point and a certificate of attendance will be sent to you.

King's Health Partners - Clinical Academic Innovation Workshop Series

To hear about King's Health Partners' exciting work on novel technologies, diagnostics and therapeutics, register [here](#) for the next episode of their Innovation Workshop Series.

3 to 4.30pm, 11 November 2020.

NHS Confederation PCN conference

The NHS Confederation is holding it's first ever PCN conference virtually on 11 November.

It aims to unite primary care network teams from across the country and give them the opportunity to connect with peers nationwide, addressing the issues they have been raising over the first year of PCNs and supporting them to deliver innovation in primary care.

You can book a place [here](#)

Information from acute and mental health providers

e-RS update

The latest versions of the documents outlining changes to referrals at our acute hospitals are below. Latest updates and key messages to practices are in red:

[GSTT Acute \(updated 30/09\)](#)

[King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust \(updated 27/10\)](#)

Cancer updates

South East London Cancer Alliance

[Cancer Updates for GPs - 19 October 2020](#)

Rapid diagnostic testing

The Rapid Diagnostic Centre at Guy's and St Thomas is keen to work with the PCNs to encourage referrals into this service.

If you'd like to find out more about the process please read this short [update](#) from their team.

Breast screening during Covid-19 recovery

NHS Improvement and England have produced this [PDF](#) to help GP practice managers and nurses explain to patients how breast screening is working in response to Covid-19.

Medicines management

MHRA Alert: Warfarin and other anticoagulant monitoring during the COVID-19 pandemic

The MHRA has released [updated guidance](#) to healthcare professionals and patients regarding concerns over an apparent increase in the number of patients taking warfarin found to have elevated international normalised ratio (INR) values during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The guidance reminds healthcare professionals that acute illness may exaggerate the effect of warfarin tablets and a dose reduction may be required. Continued INR monitoring at the anticoagulation clinic is therefore important.

There is the potential for drug-drug interactions between oral anticoagulants and certain antibiotics and antivirals.

Healthcare professionals should remind patients to let the anticoagulation clinic know if there are any changes to their medications or diet, including alcohol consumption.

Where possible a patient should be switched from warfarin to either a direct oral anticoagulant (DOAC) or a low molecular weight heparin.

The MHRA is aware of a small number of patients in whom warfarin treatment was continued after starting treatment with DOACs. To reduce the risk of over-anticoagulation and bleeding, healthcare professionals should ensure that warfarin treatment is stopped before DOACs are started.

Please contact your Medicines Optimisation Team if you require further support.

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