



Issue 90/Wednesday 14 July 2021

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.

COVID-19

COVID-19 Staff testing and reporting

Regular antigen testing of all practice staff is critical to protect staff and patients and slow the spread of Covid-19. Staff testing is vital - even after vaccination. ALL test results regardless of outcome must be reported. Find out more [here](#) in our weekly update.

Vaccinations received outside of England and Covid Pass

Only local GP notes can be updated to note that their patient has received a vaccination abroad, but there is nothing they can do to code it to enable the flow of data through to NIMS as yet.

Vaccinations received outside of England can be added to the GPs local notes - for absolute clarity these do NOT flow into DPS/NIMS or any other system. Therefore will not be reflected in the Covid Travel or Event Passes. There is work ongoing to enable vaccinations received abroad to be coded which will eventually enable such vaccinations to be entered into a PoC and enable the flow of data. The project is still underway with no confirmed release date as yet.

Update to the Green Book COVID-19 Chapter

Revisions were made to [the COVID-19 chapter within the Green Book](#) on 1 July 2021, and Public Health England have subsequently updated the [COVID-19 vaccination programme: Information for healthcare practitioners](#) document. Information in both resources now includes advice about the following:

- Advice around duration of protection and staged booster doses.

- Update to vaccination schedule to reflect 8-12 weeks recommendation.
- Advice around interchangeability of vaccines including guidance for patients receiving their first dose abroad.
- Advice on myocarditis and pericarditis in recipients of Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.
- Guidance on the co-administration of the COVID-19 vaccines with other inactivated or live vaccines.

GP updates

Changes to funding routes for planned treatment abroad

The ways in which patients can access planned treatment abroad have changed following the UK leaving the EU on 31 December 2020. Pre-authorized planned treatment at state-run facilities continues to operate under the S2 funding route but the EU directive route is no longer available for patients starting treatment after 31 December 2020. Practitioners should direct patients considering receiving planned treatment abroad to the official [S2 funding route](#). This will not require patients to pay their treatment costs up-front. Patients should be wary of using third party services which organise planned treatment abroad on their behalf, as these services often rely on the EU directive route and may not be able to refund the treatment costs. There have been several cases of patients being out of pocket due to using these services. [Information on the EU directive is available here](#).

Quality alerts reporting tool system update

All GP practices are to be advised that there has been a recent update on the SEL CCG quality alerts reporting portal. The quality alerts e-form has been updated to ensure that restrictions on the types of reporting via this portal are for quality alerts only.

Access the quality alert e-form via the website gateway [link](#).

GP practice staff are reminded that the e-form within the Datix portal should **NOT** be used for reporting any internal GP practice incident management events. (Clinical or data breach)

2021 GP patient survey published

The survey was sent to 2.41 million adults aged 16 years or over who are registered with a GP practice in England, from January to early April this year. The survey received **850,206** responses from patients.

How to access the results:

- The NHS England statistical [page](#)
- A copy of the reports, along with the summary infographic [here](#).
- Practice level results tool to see the results for your GP practice [here](#) and find GP practice, CCG and national level excel files, along with CCG level slide packs [here](#).

You can view the national, CCG, practice level results and create tables and charts, run crosstabs or create your own subgroups for analysis in the GP patient survey analysis tool. It is also possible to view trends across time for CCG, practice level or national results. Please see the analysis tool [here](#).

If you have any questions, contact hannah.atherton@nhs.net, Insight & Feedback Team, NHS England and NHS Improvement.

Information about NHS App and vaccination status

North Southwark Quay Health Solutions has provided the following guidance in response to queries about the NHS App and vaccinations status:

Within the NHP App, the COVID Pass enables patients to show they've had a full course of the COVID-19 vaccine when travelling abroad to some countries or to take part in a large events trial in England.

Patient queries regarding the NHS Covid vaccine pass should be directed to the online [portal](#), or call 119.

Template wording for your practice website and voicemail, and more guidance for surgeries is available here: [NHS COVID Pass - NHS Digital](#)

We understand some practices are receiving queries from individuals who were vaccinated outside of England. In these situations:

- Please add the details into the patient's EMIS record so you have a local record of this patient's Covid vaccination status.
- Advise the patient that this local record does NOT flow through for access to the NHS App COVID Pass for travel or events. There is work ongoing nationally to enable vaccinations received abroad to be coded which will eventually enable support for vaccine pass purposes. The project is still underway with no confirmed release date as yet.
- If the patient needs their second dose, please use the PHE guidance to identify which vaccine they require (see p13): COVID-19 programme guidance for healthcare workers (publishing.service.gov.uk)

The patient should not be advised to book another course of the vaccine. Their query could be referred to call 119 if necessary.

Covid-19 vaccination programme for sex workers across SEL

SEL CCG has commissioned Sex Worker Advocacy and Resistance Movement (SWARM) to roll out a Covid-19 vaccination programme to sex workers across SE London. The programme aims to gain insight into the vaccination status of sex workers across SEL and actively engage with and support sex workers to access the vaccine.

Sex workers will be supported to access dedicated vaccination sessions held across SEL delivered by the Find and Treat Team or to SEL vaccinations sites.

Sex workers can be referred by emailing swarm.sel@nhs.net. Referrals can be made by health care professionals, community/charitable organisations supporting sex workers and through main referral points identified across each borough.

For further information please email swarm.sel@nhs.net or contact Yd Davies@nhs.net

Extension of temporary changes to GP contract under the pandemic regulations

NHS England and Improvement has confirmed that the following temporary changes to the GP contract in England will continue under the pandemic regulations **until 30 September 2021**:

- A suspension of the requirement that practices report to commissioners about the Friends and Family Test returns.
- A temporary suspension of the requirement for individual patient consent in certain circumstances, in order to encourage increased use of electronic repeat dispensing (eRD).
- A continuation of the temporary increase in the number of appointment slots that practices must make available for direct booking by 111 to 1 slot per 500 patients per day.

Whilst the national requirement in respect of the number of appointments slots practices are required to make available has not changed in South East London, we are continuing to support practices to release the appropriate number of appointments according to need. Based on the current utilisation of appointments, all practices should continue to make available a minimum of one daily appointment per 3,000 registered patients.

Information from Acute Providers

Consultant Connect advice line for General Paediatrics – service extends hours

From 1 July 2021 the advice line at Guy's and St Thomas' will be available from 9:00 to 19:00, Monday to Friday. Please call for urgent advice. Non-urgent advice is available via ERS or through your PCN child health team.

King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust launches new strategy for 2021-2026

King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust launched a new clinically led, patient-centred strategy for King's 2021-26, *Strong Roots, Global Reach*.

[In the full strategy](#) King's set out plans to invest in and deliver outstanding services for the people they care for, lead on improvement, innovations and partnerships, and to enhance their role as an anchor in the community.

Cancer updates

Updated - South East London Cancer Alliance

Latest version of the update below, which also includes some FAQs for primary care on cancer services in south east London to support GPs and patients during the pandemic. Important update includes:

- NHS-Galleri trial in south east London

[Cancer updates for GPs \(12 July 2021\)](#)

Online seminars, webinars and e-Learning

Free GP virtual events from Guy's and St Thomas

Guy's and St Thomas are running free virtual training seminars in the next few weeks. Each of these talks counts for one CPD point. Certificates will be sent after the event to the email address you sign up with.

- **Adult ENT: most common ear problems/ indications for otology referral**

Ms Irumee Pai, Consultant in Ear Nose and Throat at Guy's and St Thomas' is hosting a one-hour interactive virtual seminar where you will learn how to improve diagnosis, patient referrals and the management of ENT in primary care. Questions will be taken at the end of the talk.

Friday 16 July 2021 - 13:30 to 14:30

Book via the [link](#).

- **South East London cardiology primary care seminar**

The South London Cardiac Operational Delivery Network is running a one-hour interactive virtual seminar with a practical overview of cardiology in primary care.

The session will cover chest pain and ischaemic heart disease, including the management of these patients in primary care and which patients to refer to secondary care for review, plus treatment and medicine optimisation in the secondary prevention of ischaemic heart disease.

Monday 26 July - 13:30 to 14:30

Book via the [link](#).

The need to think differently about obesity and diabetes – virtual webinar

This seminar will have primary and secondary care experts from the Institute of Diabetes, Endocrinology and Obesity talking about stigma, in this context, how this can increase health inequalities and how we can think and act differently to lessen the effects.

Wednesday 28 July 2021 - 13:00 to 14:00

Book via the [link](#).

Keeping well in south east London – virtual workshop

SLAM are looking for health and care colleagues from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, working in social care, to participate in one of two workshop sessions regarding the new [Keeping Well in South East London website](#). They are particularly interested to see how the site could be enhanced to improve access and engagement for our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic colleagues.

Tuesday 20 July - 14:30 to 16:00 and 17:30 to 19:00

Email helen.winter@slam.nhs.uk if you would like to take part. [Flyer](#) to share with practice staff.

Kooth and Qwell GP – virtual webinars

Kooth offers anonymous and free access to mental health and emotional wellbeing support, available to young people in 91% of commissioned areas across England and 55% of Wales as of July 2021. Qwell offers the same support to adult cohorts.

Kooth are running three separate webinars during the month of August to highlight the benefits of [Kooth.com](#) and [Qwell.io](#); covering detailed information about the operation of both services, including clinical processes and safeguarding procedures. All attendees will receive a range of digital resources following the webinars to support signposting patients to these services.

- **Wednesday 18 August 2021 - 14:00 to 15:00**
- **Thursday 19 August 2021 - 17:00 to 18:00**
- **Monday 23 August 2021 – 12:30 to 13:30**

For further information contact skel@kooth.com. Book via the [link](#).

Diabetes UK offers free wellbeing course to primary care nurses

A new training programme has been launched with the aim of helping nurses and other primary care staff to provide better emotional and psychological support to patients with diabetes. The free, [online continuing professional development \(CPD\) training module](#) has been launched by Diabetes UK and is accredited by the Royal College of Nursing.

NHS England and NHS Improvement COVID Vaccine Staff Q&A event

NHS England and NHS Improvement are hosting another clinical panel Q&A on the COVID Vaccine for staff who may still have questions.

Thursday 15 July 2021 - 12:00 to 13:00

[Join online](#).

Recruitment

NHS South East London CCG has four key worker vacancies, (band 6) for 12 months FTC/secondment within its Transforming Care team

To apply and learn more about the role, including key responsibilities and the essential skills required, read the full job advertisement [here](#). For an informal conversation please contact ian.sutton@nhs.net.

If applying for this job as a secondment, please ensure that you discuss this with your current line manager prior to applying, to ensure that you can be released should you be successful.

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