



Issue 94/Wednesday 11 August 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

Enhanced service specifications updated in line with latest JCVI guidance

Further to the JCVI's recent announcements on 15 July and [4 August](#) about the vaccination of children and young people, there is an updated [COVID-19 enhanced service specification for phases 1 and 2](#) and the [enhanced service specification for phase 3](#) to include the new eligible patients.

Practices delivering COVID-19 vaccinations under the phases 1 and 2 Enhanced Service (ES) can start vaccinating eligible children and younger people immediately subject to meeting the requirements of the ES. That includes eligible 12–15-year-olds and all 16- and 17-year-olds.

Until Public Health England (PHE) update the national protocol and Patient Group Direction (PGD), sites will need to use a Patient Specific Direction (PSD).

If a PCN grouping is signed up to the ES for phases 1 and 2 but does not wish to vaccinate eligible 12–15-year-old patients (cohort xiii), they must opt out of delivering COVID-19 vaccinations to cohort xiii by 23:59 on 13 August in writing to their local commissioner (CCG), which is providing administrative support to NHS England so alternative provision can be secured.

Further details and support on running searches and identifying eligible 12–15-year-old children will be shared shortly.

In addition to these changes, the ES specification for phases 1 and 2 has also been extended until the end of October 2021 to enable any PCN groupings not participating in the phase 3 enhanced service to complete any remaining second doses for eligible patients. We have also made a few updates to align both the phases 1 and 2 and phase 3 ES specifications and future proof them. The amendments are highlighted in the specifications.

If you have any queries, please contact: england.pccovidvaccine@nhs.net

COVID-19 Vaccination of Children and Young People - legal mechanisms for administration of the COVID-19 Vaccine

SEL CCG believes that updates to the Enhanced Service specification, as well as supporting guidance published on the 5 August 2021 has now resolved concerns regarding indemnity for the administration of Covid-19 vaccination of 16 -17 year olds and eligible 12-15 year olds with specific underlying health conditions that put them at risk of severe COVID-19. Clinicians are advised to contact their indemnity insurance providers or your local committees/professional networks for further advice and guidance if needed. The guidance also highlights that until Public Health England updates the national protocol, sites will need to use a Patient Specific Direction (PSD) or the Patient Group Direction (PGD) for vaccinating these cohorts. Community pharmacies can vaccinate this cohort, subject to completing the clinical criteria in the [checklist](#) as a self-assessment process. PCN-led sites are not required to complete the checklist but are strongly encouraged to review it and ensure their sites remain compliant.

Patient Group Direction updated for Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine

This was [updated on the 6th August](#) 21 to include the new cohort. However, clinicians are reminded that when working to a PGD, all stages of the vaccination process (screening, consenting, dilution of the vial, administration, record keeping and observation) must be undertaken by the same registered healthcare professional.

Patient Specific Directions

SEL CCG has advised that whilst not defined in legislation a PSD is the traditional written instruction, signed by a doctor, dentist, or non-medical prescriber. Further information relating to PSDs is available on the [SPS website](#). In the absence of the updated national protocol, a PSD can be used by organisations to vaccinate this new cohort of patients. The vaccination process (screening, consenting, dilution of the vial, administration, record keeping and observation) can be undertaken by different members of the workforce. Clinicians are asked to adhere to the recommendations outlined by the SPS when utilising a PSD and can refer to the following [NHS guidance document](#) for additional information and view a PSD template (Appendix B) which can be adapted locally. For any queries relating to the implementation of a PSD or PGD within your organisation, please contact your local Medicines Optimisation Team at the CCG.

Mandatory training for vaccinating 16 - 17-year-olds

This is a reminder of the [mandatory training required](#), for anyone who will vaccinate 16-17 year olds. Links are available within the document if sessions have not been completed.

New rapid guideline to diagnose and treat rare blood clotting condition associated with COVID-19 vaccination

NICE has published a [new rapid COVID-19 guideline](#) to help healthcare staff identify and treat patients who develop the rare syndrome vaccine-induced immune thrombocytopenia and thrombosis (VITT) after receiving COVID-19 vaccinations.

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.

GP updates

GP participation in flu vaccination from September 2021 – response to queries received

The London Immunisation Team sent practices an [Enhanced Service Specification](#) and [ESS \(Childhood\)](#) on 3 August 2021 outlining the Seasonal Flu programmes. The following information has been provided in response to queries received in relation to the sign up of this service:

- Seasonal Flu, Page 7, section 4.1 states: All GP practices which participate in this ES must sign up and respond to the commissioner (NHSE) in writing by 23:59 on Monday 16 August 2021. Payment and activity recording will be managed using the Calculating Quality Reporting Service (CQRS)5 and all GP practices must sign-up to CQRS no later than 16 August 2021.
- Child Flu, Page 4, section 4.2 states: Commissioners will invite GP practices to participate in this ES before Monday 2 August 2021. All practices who wish to participate in this ES must respond to the commissioners' offer by 23:59 on Monday 16 August 2021. The agreement should be recorded in writing with the commissioner.
- Some regions do send official notifications to practices to be signed and returned. However, the London region historically agreed that by accepting the offer within CQRS practices are confirming their participation in the service, no other confirmation is therefore required. The service offers have not yet been released by CQRS and they are due towards the end of August. Once received the team will offer the services to the practices and we will also send another communication to confirm that the offers have been sent.

For further queries contact england.londonimms@nhs.net.

Informing your regional team of your named lead for vaccination services - reminder

NHSE/I previously [wrote to practices](#) confirming contractual changes to vaccination and immunisation programmes as part of the two year transition to the 2020/21-2023/24 contract agreement. Practices should inform their NHS England and NHS Improvement regional Public Health Commissioning team by **Friday 20 August 2021** of the name and contacted details of their nominated lead.

Opportunity to participate in a new national CVD prevention programme

South East London ICS is looking for PCNs to take part in the [Blood Pressure Monitoring @ Home](#) programme, aimed at patients diagnosed with hypertension to allow treatment to be optimised where necessary. PCNs are invited to complete the attached [Expressions of Interest](#) document and return it to don.shenker@nhs.net and rmccarthy@nhs.net by **5pm Friday 20 August 2021**. Further information, including target populations, is also available [here](#).

Meningitis awareness campaign launches in London

A high-profile meningitis campaign, led by Meningitis Now and supported by NHS London, PHE, pharmaceutical company GSK, Meningitis Research Foundation (MRF) and a Life for a Cure, was launched across Greater London on Monday 9 August. The campaign will run from August-September 2021 and seeks to raise awareness amongst young Londoners and parents about meningococcal disease and what they can do to help prevent infection. They will be advised to contact their GP to check their MenACWY vaccination status and approach community pharmacists for further information and guidance on meningitis. Meningitis Now and the Meningitis Research Foundation are offering signs and symptoms cards which can be downloaded:

- [Meningitis Now](#) resources
 - [Meningitis Research Foundation](#) resources
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Becton Dickinson: supply disruption recommended actions

We have been notified of a supply disruption in relation to Becton Dickinson (BD) on their Blood Specimen Collection Portfolio. NHS Supply Chain has issued an [Important Customer Notice](#) which details the products impacted and the measures they have put in place. We have issued [guidance on recommended actions](#) for medical directors, nursing directors, GPs and pathology laboratories to optimise resources for pathology laboratory

work. Senior clinical oversight is needed around the ordering of tests with a view to reducing the use of the products impacted by the supply disruption. NHS Supply Chain is managing the existing stock of impacted products, meaning organisations should order stock directly from NHS Supply Chain rather than seeking to purchase directly from BD. General practices that secure these products from Primary Care Support England (PCSE) should continue to order in this way. GP practices that do not usually order from PCSE can also order via [its process](#).

Suggestions to reduce tube usage include the following:

- It is recommended that Vitamin D testing (except in very exceptional circumstances set out in NICE guidance) is stopped.
- Routine wellness screening is not a priority.
- In the acute setting routine wellness screening is not a priority, for example screening for pre-diabetes, dyslipidaemia, and so forth, especially if patients are in the acute phase of illness. However, certain acute tests should be assessed as appropriate. Patients should be assessed appropriately when recovered.
- Allergy testing is not a priority at this time unless there are overriding clinical indications.
- Routine infertility testing should be deferred until a resolution to the supply disruption is in place, with the exception of patients over 35 years of age in consultation with the individual patient.

If you have any queries, please email england.london-incident@nhs.net

For information - New Consultant Connect Update

The update can be accessed [here](#).

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.

Cancer updates

Updated - South East London Cancer Alliance

Please find below a link to the latest version of the update, which also includes FAQs for primary care on cancer services in south east London to support GPs and patients during the pandemic.

[Cancer updates for GPs \(28 July 2021\)](#)

Online seminars, webinars and e-Learning

Ask about Asthma 2021 – CYP webinars

NHS England Children and Young People's Team are running daily webinars from 20 - 24 September 2021 as part of #AskAboutAsthma 2021. These focus on children and young people's asthma care.

Ask the expert webinar, for CYP and families: **Monday 20 September - 12.30 to 13.30.** Register [here](#).

Nursing webinar: **Tuesday 21 September - 12.30 to 13.30.** Register [here](#).

Pharmacy webinar: **Tuesday 21 September - 19:30 to 20:30.** Register [here](#).

Air quality and asthma webinar: **Wednesday 22 September - 14.00 to 15.00.** Register [here](#).

Primary care webinar: **Friday 24 September - 12.30 to 13.30.** Register [here](#).

EMIS Introduction - half day training sessions

EMIS Introduction half day training sessions, for clinical and non-clinical staff. The number of attendees is limited to provide time for interaction and best learning experience, please cancel your place if you are not able to attend.

After registering on Eventbrite, attendees will receive an invitation to MS teams meeting.

Sessions for clinical staff:

Monday 23 August 2021 - 9.30 to 12.30. Register [here](#).

Wednesday 25 August 2021 - 13.00-16.00. Register [here](#).

Thursday 9 September 2021 13.00-16.00. Register [here](#).

Sessions for non-clinical staff

Monday 23 August 2021 – 13.00 to 16.00. Register [here](#).

Wednesday 25 August 2021 - 9.30 to 12.30. Register [here](#).

Thursday 9 September 2021 – 9.30 to 12.30. Register [here](#).

Lipid management educational webinar

Specialist pharmacists from across SEL will discuss:

- Use of high intensity statins in primary and secondary prevention of CVD
- Statin intolerance, shared decision making and statin hesitancy
- Lipid clinic referral criteria and alternative options for the reduction of cholesterol and CVD risk
- Introduction to new pathways for SEL, NICE guidance and UCLPartners pathways for lipid management
- Q&A session

Wednesday 18 August 2021 – 19.00 to 20.30

Numbers are limited, so early registration is advised. Book [here](#).

This event will be recorded, and the webinar will be repeated on 23 September 2021 and 5 October 2021 (12.30 to 14.00). Please contact your local borough medicines management teams for further information.

Community wellness dialogues with pharmacists: what your pharmacist can do for you

Community pharmacists across south east London have arranged a series of online events throughout August to discuss how to self-care and improve wellness with local people as well as explain their role in helping people look after their own health. Local people can take part in the conversations through links below:

- **Thursday 12 August 2021 – 19.00 to 20.00** with [Africans in London TV](#). Watch via the link www.facebook.com/rudi.page.98
- **Thursday 19 August 2021 – 19.00 to 20.00** with [Africans in London TV](#). You can watch on TV or via this link www.facebook.com/rudi.page.98
- **Sunday 22 August 2021 – 11.00 to 12.30** as part of the Community Wellbeing Service at the Church of God of Prophecy House of Bread in New Cross. Take part on Zoom and the ID is 932 3961 6570.
- **Thursday 26 August – 19.00 to 20.00** with [Black Business Recommendation](#). Take part on Zoom and the ID for the meeting is 337 945 0386.
- **Friday 27 August – 18.00 to 19.00** for communities in Peckham and neighbouring areas. Take part on Zoom, and the ID for the meeting is 337 945 0386, or you can watch on Facebook Live at www.facebook.com/rudi.page.98

For further information on these conversation sessions, please email rudi.page.98@gmail.com or raj.matharu@nhs.net

Resources

Pregnancy and vaccination resources

Pregnancy and fertility and the vaccination webinar - PHE partnered with Maternity Action, NHS London and GLA for a Q+A session focussing on pregnancy and fertility in relation to the vaccination. The webinar recording is now available [here](#).

Increasing vaccination confidence: pregnancy and fertility: A new [insight deck](#) to support your vaccination conversations.

'Pregnant? Have your COVID-19 vaccinations' social media cards available [here](#).

The most up-to-date leaflets and posters on vaccination in pregnancy are available from [PHE](#) and [RCOG](#). The [Royal College of Midwives](#) also has helpful resources for maternity staff to support pregnant women to get the vaccine.

Social media cards aimed at undocumented migrants

Social media cards aimed at increasing uptake amongst undocumented migrants, and allaying fears held in some communities available [here](#).

COVID-19 – Resources for communicating with children and young people.

PHE had produced a range of resources, including leaflets, available [here](#).

Managing challenging behaviours at vaccination sites - guide for site managers

NHSE/I have developed the following resources:

[A managing challenging behaviours at vaccination sites guide](#)

[The SAFER model](#) helps NHS staff self-assess any risk from a potentially difficult situation, help NHS staff stay in control and choose the best response.

[Challenging behaviours for volunteers poster](#)

[Guidance for staff managing challenging behaviours at COVID-19 vaccination sites](#)

[Guidance for volunteers managing challenging behaviours at COVID-19 vaccination sites](#)

['When managing challenging behaviours' and 'when dealing with unofficial filming'](#)

[The L.E.A.P.S model](#) supports you to manage your response to, and de-escalate, difficult situations.

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