



Issue 95/Wednesday 18 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

Vaccinating children and young people

- This letter provides detail on the [actions for GP practices to support vaccinating eligible 12 to 15 year-olds](#) to ensure they are offered a COVID-19 vaccination appointment by 23 August 2021
- [FAQs: vaccinating children and young people](#). In addition to FAQs the document includes a summary of current position and template letter to severely immunosuppressed individuals for GP practices to adapt and issue.
- The [national protocol for the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine](#) has been updated to include the new JCVI guidance on children.

The latest vaccine equalities tools, evidence and resources are on the [FutureNHS connect and exchange hub](#).

Training sessions for 'capped pull' ordering

In the new process of vaccine supply for phase 3 it will be up to vaccination sites to order their stock, pulling it from an agreed maximum cap. Please register to join one of these two sessions for LVS sites (PCN-led sites and community pharmacy-led sites) for a demonstration of the new 'capped pull' ordering process, get answers to frequently asked questions and find further resources and guidance:

- Session 1: [Thursday 26 August - 11.00 to 12.00](#)
- Session 2: [Wednesday 1 September - 14.00 to 15.00](#)

Joining details will be sent to those registered shortly before the event. Please email the [COVID-19 Training and Deployment team](#) with any queries.

Guidance on staff and student self-isolation and return to work

The government's requirements to self-isolate after a positive COVID-19 contact changed on **Monday 16 August 2021**. This [letter](#) outlines how this change will impact staff and students working in the NHS. This supersedes previous PHE guidance and applies to all staff including substantive clinical and non-clinical roles, staff bank, contractors and suppliers – and students working in all facilities, settings and organisations delivering NHS care. PHE's updated guidance is [here](#).

Reminder - 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.

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

Reminder - Becton Dickinson: supply disruption recommended actions

Becton Dickinson has alerted us to a global shortage of products from their Blood Specimen Collection Portfolio. This supply disruption is expected to last for a significant period of time.

NHS/E/I issued urgent [guidance on recommended actions](#) earlier this week. **This guidance must be shared with all clinical staff and acted on immediately**. This guidance applies to all organisations regardless of supplier to ensure equity of care as well as preserving alternative stocks to support mutual aid.

The measures set out in this guidance seek to ensure that there is no disruption to urgent care, and services for patients are able to continue as clinically appropriate. **Failure to enact this guidance could limit the availability of tests.**

NHS Supply Chain has issued an [Important Customer Notice](#) which details the products impacted and the measures they have put in place.

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 [their 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.
- Recommendation to hospitals - 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.

For general enquiries or advice, please get in touch with your local pathology laboratory or email england.london-incident@nhs.net

The **following key messages can be used with patients** who have had their blood tests delayed due to the ongoing BD disruption.

Please note, the guidance issued in relation this issue is clear that a clinical assessment of the need for a test is required. The below should only be used once that individual clinical assessment has been undertaken.

- Becton Dickinson has told the NHS that there is a global shortage of products used for blood collection and blood tests.
- In order to preserve supplies for people that urgently need blood tests, the NHS has been advised to reduce the number of non-clinically urgent tests as well as to delay routine tests where it is safe to do so.
- We appreciate the inconvenience that this may cause. We would like to reassure you that we have assessed that it is clinically safe to delay this test.
- We will be re-booking your test when supplies become more easily available. If you require urgent care, please seek it as normal.

Ardens EMIS Seasonal Influenza Vaccinations 2021/22

NHS England published the service specifications for this year's flu season on Monday 2nd August. COVID booster vaccines are NOT currently part of this specification, but guidance may change on this in coming weeks.

Payment will be £10.06 per flu vaccination delivered to an eligible patient. Practices must confirm they wish to take part in this Enhanced Service by 16th August 2021.

Eligible Population

- All patients aged 50 years and over on 31 Mar 2022
- Patients aged 6 months to under 50 years in "clinical risk groups"
- Children aged 2 and 3 years of age on 31 Aug 2021
- Pregnant women
- Patients in long-stay residential care homes

- Carers
 - Close contacts of "immunocompromised individuals"
 - Frontline health & social care staff (including Locum GPs)
-

Ardens Resources - Seasonal Influenza Vaccinations

Ardens has built resources (searches and a protocol) to assist practices with call/recall, data quality checking, vaccine administration, and claims. The call/recall searches are available now and the payment searches will follow once the Business Rules are available. The protocol will be released in early September.

It is essential that you understand the limitations of our searches:

1. **There is currently no published 2021/22 code-list to define "clinical risk groups" or "immunocompromised individuals"** and the 2020/21 code-list in EMIS Web is no longer accurate due to SNOMED hierarchy changes. We have spent many hours building a high-quality code-list based on The Green Book definition to identify at-risk patients, but we know that our searches will differ slightly from the 2021/22 code-list that EMIS will publish as The Green Book definitions are open to interpretation.
2. The EMIS flu vaccine "alert" in the pink alert box is usually released in September. It advises when a patient is eligible for a flu vaccine. It will be based on the EMIS code-list for the above patients. **This "alert" will not 100% align with patients identified using the Ardens searches.**
3. This means that some patients will be identified as eligible for flu vaccine by Ardens but not by EMIS, and vice-versa. **The solution is to add the "9OX4" (Needs Influenza immunisation) code to these patient records on an ad-hoc basis where clinically appropriate.** *This code flags the patient as eligible for flu vaccine in both the Ardens and EMIS searches.*

The above problem occurs every year, and every year we receive many queries around this. Ideally we would wait until the nationally agreed 2021/22 formal code-list is published and simply align our searches with this. **We don't do this because historically this is published after flu season has started and many practices require these resources now to plan clinics.** We may align our searches with the EMIS ones once they have been published.

Please download the "Flu Search Suite" (v20.3 or above) from the [Ardens Portal](#). We anticipate making revisions to this suite over the coming weeks and so please only download these searches on the day that you require them to ensure you are running the latest version.

Ardens Seasonal Influenza Resources 2021/22 Webinar

Live webinar to learn more about how to use the flu vaccination resources. Please visit www.ardens.live/flu-webinar a few minutes before **1pm on Thursday 26th August** to join. Please (optionally) register your interest & receive a calendar invite on the [Ardens Portal](#). Contact support-emis@ardens.org.uk should you have any questions.

South East London Integrated Medicines Optimisation Committee

Please see the ratified decisions from the SEL IMOC below for information.

NEW

- **Dapagliflozin:** Guidance on the use of [dapagliflozin for the management of heart failure with reduced ejection fraction \(HFrEF\) in people WITHOUT DIABETES](#): Dapagliflozin for HFrEF in people **without diabetes** is categorised as **Amber 2** in the [SEL Formulary](#) (initiation and initial prescription from the heart failure team).
- **Dupilumab:** [Outcomes monitoring framework for dupilumab in the management of atopic dermatitis](#). In addition to the above framework, page 13 of the [treatment pathway](#) provides primary care clinicians with items for consideration, when their patients are prescribed dupilumab.
- **Mucolight™ (600mg tablets):** Mucolight is included on the formulary and is categorised as **Amber 1**, as a **third line** preparation (after carbocysteine and effervescent N-acetylcysteine [NACSYS]) for the reduction of sputum viscosity in respiratory disorders.
- **Bempedoic acid:** Following publication of [NICE guidance](#), an **INTERIM** category for bempedoic acid is **red** (prescribing and supply by specialist only) in SEL. This **interim formulary position** and will change once the local lipid guideline has been updated to incorporate this agent.
- **Pitolisant:** [Formulary inclusion](#) of pitolisant for the management of idiopathic hypersomnia (off-label use). The [formulary recommendation](#) outlines the criteria for use, including that pitolisant is a last line option and will be categorised **red** in this setting.

UPDATED

- Review dates for the SEL adult [asthma](#) and [COPD](#) management guidelines extended to March 2022 and April 2022 respectively.
- Extension to time limited formulary recommendations for [Buvidal™](#) (buprenorphine long-acting injection for opioid dependence) and [Nyxoid™](#) (naloxone nasal spray for emergency treatment of opioid overdose). These agents are categorised as **red** in SEL.
- Removal of Simple Eye Ointment from the SEL Formulary – following a significant increase in the price of this product. Alternatives can be found in the SEL [Joint Medicines Formulary](#).

- Recategorisation of N-acetylcysteine [NACSYS] effervescent tablets from amber 2 to **amber 1** in the SEL [Joint Medicines Formulary](#) to align to the existing category for carbocysteine.

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 \(16 August 2021\)](#)

Online seminars, webinars and e-Learning

Webinar - Launch of London Workforce Race Equality Strategy in Primary Care

This will be London led and dedicated to regional discussion and reflection including a review of the joint work HEE and NSHE/I are doing to create a wider Primary Care Workforce Race and Equality Strategy.

Tuesday 21 September – 14.15 to 16.00

To attend, register using the [link](#).

For more information email Carrianne.green@hee.nhs.uk

SEL CCG webinars on COVID-19 vaccination and pregnant women

SEL CCG is running two webinars to address hesitancies and concerns and to increase uptake of the COVID-19 vaccination in pregnant women.

The first will provide information and training for midwives and other healthcare professionals on the importance of COVID-19 vaccination and safety in pregnancy. There will be an opportunity to ask questions.

- Tuesday 24 August 2021 – 18.00 to 19.00. [Click here to join the Teams meeting](#).

The second webinar session is for pregnant women, their partners, families, as well as the wider public. Attendees can ask questions and gain an understanding of how the COVID-

19 vaccine reduces risk. The panel will include an infectious diseases consultant, the lead for the Local Maternity System SEL, as well as a GP trainer.

- Thursday 26 August 2021 – 18.00 to 19.00. [Click here to join the Teams meeting.](#)

Resources

New video consultation resources for patients under 12

An animation and leaflet for patients under the age of 12 explain how a video consultation works and answer questions or worries about a virtual appointment to improve their confidence and understanding.

The resources, which can be customised by organisations wishing to add their logo, are available in the [patient information materials folder](#) on the [Video consultations for NHS secondary care providers FutureNHS workspace](#).

New Cancer Research resources.

Cancer Research has produced the following new assets for health professionals: [Quality Improvements in Cervical Screening](#) and a new [PCN DES video series](#).

Recruitment

SE London Training Hubs vacancy – Long COVID Clinical Education Champion.

SE London Training Hubs Collaborative are looking for a [Long Covid Clinical Education Champion](#) for one session per week on average, as an interim post for one year. Send your expressions of interest to alisanorthall@nhs.net by Friday 10 September 2021.

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