



Issue 98/Wednesday 8 September 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

Updated JCVI guidance for vaccinating immunosuppressed individuals with a third primary dose

[This letter](#) sets out the actions to take to begin vaccinating this group with a third dose as part of their primary vaccination course by 13 September.

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 - Urgent guidance on Becton Dickinson blood specimen collection - supply disruption.

ACTION - Please read NHS England [letter](#) from 26 August

Key Messages

- **The letter states that all primary care and community testing must be halted until 17 September 2021, except for clinically urgent testing**
- The guidance does not apply to paediatric blood tests – though it is important to stress that paediatric blood tubes should not be used for adults

- We did send out some suggested messaging that you could use with patients yesterday – either directly when dealing with a patient and for placing on your website. This attached again for your convenience
- It has been agreed that the review of patients who are currently booked for phlebotomy appointments from the **6 September** will be undertaken by the GP or the referring clinician who will decide whether the blood test is urgent or not, therefore giving adequate time for providers to pull requests, practices to review, and for patients to be informed.
- Phlebotomy providers will send practices a list of their patients with appointments 5 working days or more in advance to ask them to review.
- Referral requests that have been made in the last few days will be respected.
- **No cancellations** will be made unless the referring practice has reviewed the referral and deemed it to be non-urgent
- Any new requests made to a provider will be assumed to be urgent / in line with the guidelines and will be accepted.
- T-Quest will be modified to allow for a pop-up message on t-Quest which requires the GP to confirm that the blood test is urgent
- Finally if your practice is approached for comment by the media, please refer them to NHS England as this is a nationally managed incident

Please remember, where the clinical decision is that a patient needs an urgent blood test then that is the right thing to do.

We will make sure that you receive regular updates and information on this issue.

Public Messaging

- A supplier to the NHS has advised us of a global shortage of some equipment used for taking blood tests.
- Anyone who needs a test for urgent health problems, will still get one but where your clinician recommends that it's safe to do so, then you may be asked to come back for a test at a later date, or your appointment may be rescheduled.
- Given the nature of the shortage, we cannot give an exact date for when the test will be rescheduled, but please be assured that if your condition or symptoms require it, then you will get a test, and we will be re-booking your test when supplies become more easily available.
- **If your condition or symptoms change or get worse, please contact the NHS as you would normally.**

As this is a national incident we are asking that if you are approached by the media please contact the national team via the regional team at london.commsteam@nhs.net

Advice on access to healthcare for recent Afghan arrivals

The UK is supporting the relocation of Afghan workers and their families under its Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) programme. Many of their immediate healthcare needs are being addressed on arrival, though individuals may present to healthcare facilities anywhere in the country. Many NHS organisations, staff and partners are already contributing to this programme directly. This [letter](#) provides a further briefing along with specific advice should individuals need to access healthcare.

Commissioning a shared care plan for London - update

As you may know, NHS South West London CCG, on behalf of the five London CCGs, is leading on the procurement and commissioning of a bespoke, digital urgent and end of

life shared care planning solution and a programme to support the clinical use of the digital solution.

The contract for the service provided by Coordinate My Care (CMC), ends on 31 March 2022. In preparation for this, from November 2020 to June 2021, we engaged with a wide range of stakeholders, patients, GPs and other clinicians to create a specification that will better meet their needs going forward.

Key benefits of the new specification are that the new service will enable shared care plans to be integrated into the OneLondon programme resulting in:

- Reduced duplication: Care plans will be pre-populated with relevant information from the patient's care record.
- Improved accessibility: Plans will continue to be universally accessible by all clinicians involved in a patient's care. However, greater interoperability with existing primary and secondary care systems will remove the need for separate log-ins to access care plans. Plans will continue to be accessible to the London Ambulance Service so that more care can be managed in the community.
- We will be able to create and edit the care plan templates making it possible to support a greater variety of clinical pathways, including, but not limited to End of Life Care.

The new London service will be launched on 1 April 2022 and existing CMC care plans will be migrated onto the new system by end March 2022.

We would like to encourage clinicians to continue documenting End of Life care plans on CMC until the end of March 2022. The implementation plan for the new contract includes migration of care plans documented on CMC and user testing of the solution prior to go-live.

We expect to be able to announce the new service provider in October and we will update you on progress regularly over the coming months as the new service is developed.

Conditional Marketing Authorisation for Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine - Comirnaty®

Pfizer-BioNTech has been granted a Conditional Marketing Authorisation for their COVID-19 vaccine, and it is now branded as Comirnaty®. There are no quality, safety or efficacy implications from the change in licensing status of the new licensed stock. Supplies of this brand to NHS first line services are expected in early September 2021.

- The new Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) for the Comirnaty® product is available [here](#).
- The new Comirnaty® Patient Information leaflet (PIL) is available [here](#) and must be issued to patients given Comirnaty® vaccine.
- The new Patient Group Directions and/or National Protocol for Comirnaty® is available [here](#).
- The Standard Operating Procedures have been updated and are available [here](#).

South East London Integrated Medicines Optimisation Committee (SEL IMOC)

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

New

- **Methotrexate** 10mg tablets are now "GREY" category in SEL - not recommended for routine prescribing as part of a local drive to improve

medicines safety in this area. A [position statement](#) and [template letter](#) aim to support discussions with patients and between healthcare professionals.

- **Andexanet alfa** has been included in the [SEL Joint Medicines Formulary](#) as a RED category medicine (hospital only). Andexanet alfa is an IV agent that is recommended by [NICE](#) as an option for reversing anticoagulation from apixaban or rivaroxaban in adults with life-threatening or uncontrolled bleeding in the gastrointestinal tract.

Updated

- **Melatonin for treatment of sleep disorders in children and adolescents (age 1-17 years)** -The shared care [guideline](#) has been updated to incorporate the [local prescribing guidance](#) for melatonin in paediatric sleep disorders. The updated shared care guideline includes Slenyto™ prolonged release tablets - the place in therapy of Slenyto is as per the [prescribing guidance](#).
- **Rheumatology treatment pathways and monitoring framework:** The [rheumatoid arthritis \(RA\) pathway](#) in addition to the [seronegative spondyloarthropathies \(SpA\) pathway](#) have been updated to incorporate published NICE technology appraisals. The associated [monitoring framework](#) for these pathways has subsequently been refreshed.
- The review dates for the [SEL Interface Policy](#) and the [Prescribing guide for the NHS/Private interface](#) have been extended to March 2022.
- The **adult RAGG list** will be retired from the SEL IMOC website. The most up to date RAGG information for adult formulary medicines can be accessed via the [SEL Joint Medicines Formulary website](#).

Mind in South East London and SLAM NHS Foundation Trust launch new service for people bereaved by suicide

The [service](#) provides emotional and practical support to people of all ages, with a focus on the recently bereaved, in Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark. The service aims to reduce the risk of suicide and mental health issues in those who have lost someone to suicide, and to help them cope with the loss, providing one-to-one support, peer support groups and bereavement counselling. It also offers information and signposting. The service accepts self-referrals and referrals from professionals.

A [poster](#) and [leaflet](#) are available for download.

Weight Management Enhanced Service – referral allocation

NHSE/I has confirmed that the final allocation figures will be available shortly after 10 September 2021. This is because referral allocations are based on the total number of participating practices from across the country and there are some areas where not all practices have been offered or have accepted the service on CQRS. The national team is unable to confirm the final allocation figures until all practices across England have confirmed their participation.

The final deadline for practices to accept the service on CQRS has been extended further to the 10 of September. NHSE/I will then recalculate and confirm the referral allocation for each practice and the SEL Primary Care Team will inform each practice in South East London that has signed up to the service.

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 \(08 September 2021\)](#)

Online seminars, webinars and e-Learning

Reminder - webinar on Transfer of Pathology services to Viapath

GPs in Bexley, Greenwich and Lewisham are reminded that the webinar to find out more about the transfer of pathology services to Viapath - the SYNLAB/NHS pathology partnership in South East London - takes place next week. This is an opportunity to find out about the transfer from representatives from SYNLAB UK & Ireland and Viapath, as well as to ask questions as part of an open Q&A session. It will also be recorded.

Wednesday 15 September – 12.00 to 12.45

The webinar can be accessed on MS Teams, [here](#).

For any other queries about the transfer, email contactus@synlab.co.uk.

Free GP virtual events from GSTT

All talks count towards 1 CPD point. Certificates will be sent after the event.

- **Medicines optimisation for cardiovascular diseases**

Interactive virtual seminar with a practical overview of cardiology in primary care. The session will cover medicines optimisation for cardiovascular diseases such as atrial fibrillation, heart failure (HF), including newly emerging therapies for HF, and ischaemic heart diseases.

Tuesday 14 September 2021 - 13:30 to 14:30

Register for the talk [here](#).

- **Pain management**

Seminar will cover chronic pain management and fibromyalgia and include a Q&A.

Tuesday 21 September 2021 - 13:30 to 14.30.

Register for the talk [here](#).

- **South London cardiology primary care seminar**

For primary care clinicians focussed on interpreting echocardiogram results and managing valve disease. The session will cover:

- identifying valve disease
- Managing valve disease in primary care and which patients to refer to secondary care for review and treatment
- Appropriate referral to open access echo
- Interpreting echocardiogram reports

Thursday 30 September 2021 - 13:30 to 14:30

Register for the talk [here](#).

- **Ophthalmology for primary care**

Ms Elodie Azan, Consultant Ophthalmologist, is hosting a virtual seminar with a practical overview of general ophthalmology cases in primary care.

Wednesday 13 October 2021 - 13:30 to 14.30

Register for the talk [here](#).

- **Maternity virtual seminar for primary care**

Learn how to improve postnatal hypertension management and diabetes in pregnancy

Friday 15 October 2021 – 13.30 to 14.30

Register for the talk [here](#).

King's College Hospital Foundation Trust London Pharmacy ECHO programme

This programme is aimed at all Pharmacy staff. This programme will aim to improve knowledge about all liver conditions like liver disease, viral hepatitis and Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease and improve the understanding of the patient pathway.

The Pharmacy ECHO Programme will run fortnightly from 15 September 2021 to 24 November 2021 - 20.00 to 21.00.

See the [attached programme](#) for more details. To join, click the [link](#) and fill out the registration.

Once registered, you will receive a calendar invitation, and invitation to view the ECHO website.

Lipid management educational webinar

Specialist pharmacists from across SEL will discuss:

1. Use of high intensity statins in primary and secondary prevention of CVD
2. Statin intolerance, shared decision making and statin hesitancy
3. Lipid clinic referral criteria and alternative options for the reduction of cholesterol and CVD risk

4. Introduction to new pathways for SEL, NICE guidance and UCLPartners pathways for lipid management
5. Q&A

This webinar is running on two dates. Numbers are limited.

- 23 September 2021 – 12.30 to 14.00 Join [here](#).
- 5 October 2021 – 12.30 to 14.00. Join [here](#).

A recording of the webinar will be made available in due course.

Please contact your local borough medicines management teams for further information.

Sharing the learning from community wellness dialogues with community pharmacists

Community pharmacists held a series of online and live discussions with people from Black African and Black Caribbean communities across south east London throughout August to discuss how to self-care and improve wellness and explain the role of community pharmacy in helping people look after their own health, as part of promoting confidence in the Covid vaccine. This session will share the findings and explore and discuss what was learnt from this approach about the potential of community pharmacists in engaging with their communities to support wellness at a local level.

Tuesday 28 September – 14.00 to 15.00

Join the session on Zoom [here](#).

More information and contact details available [here](#).

Resources

Making the most of your video and phone appointments - video

The South East London Cancer Alliance have launched a [video](#) about making the most of virtual consultations, which they have co-produced with patients.

The video shares practical tips on how to overcome some of the main concerns and make the best of your virtual consultations.

Events

SEL CCG Annual General Meeting

Join us at our Annual General Meeting 2020/2021.

Thursday 16 September 2021

12.00pm – 2.00 pm

The meeting will be held virtually this year due to COVID-19 restrictions.

For instructions on how to join visit: [September 2021 Governing Body Meeting - South East London CCG](#)

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