



**Issue 101/Wednesday 29 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

### Update from the London COVID-19 Vaccine Clinical Reference Group

- Overseas vaccinations
- Recording of overseas vaccination
- Patients who've taken part in clinical trials

#### Overseas vaccinations

CARS are still receiving a number of enquiries where an individual has received a COVID-19 vaccine overseas and wishes to know what vaccine they can complete their course with in the UK.

Please refer to the [Covid-19 programme guidance for healthcare workers \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) which includes information on individuals who received COVID-19 vaccine overseas (page 15). It states:

"If a person has received a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine overseas that is also available in the UK, they should receive the same vaccine for their second dose. If the vaccine they received for their first dose is not available in the UK, the most similar alternative should be offered (see table in Appendix 1). If the vaccine received overseas is not listed in the table, a full course of the appropriate vaccine recommended for the individual in the UK (which may depend on their age) should be given. The recommendations in this table will be reviewed regularly as more vaccines and information about the efficacy of these vaccines becomes available.

The various groups of vaccines are:

- Adenovirus (ChAdOx) vector: AstraZeneca, Covishield
- mRNA: Pfizer, Moderna
- whole inactivated Coronavirus: Sinopharm, Sinovac, Covaxin

The other adenovirus-based vaccines (Janssen, Sputnik, CanSinoBio) use different vectors and so are not immunologically the same as either the AstraZeneca or Covishield adenovirus vector vaccines. However, as they, and the Novavax vaccine, are all based on a spike protein, the vaccine course can be completed with any of the locally available vaccines as appropriate for the individual's age."

Appendix 1 of [Covid-19 programme guidance for healthcare workers \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/86421/covid-19-programme-guidance-for-healthcare-workers) contains a useful table that healthcare workers can use to determine which vaccine to give a patient who has received a COVID-19 vaccine overseas.

### **Recording of overseas vaccinations**

We continue to respond to queries concerning the recording of overseas vaccinations. The following update from the London Coronavirus Response Cell (LCRC) on 24.08.21 clarifies the current situation:

"At the moment vaccines administered overseas cannot be recorded in the UK National Immunisation Management system (NIMS) which is the system used to show your vaccination status in the NHS App. Therefore, the ability to show any "overseas" Vaccination Certificate and request a Vaccination Passport is not currently available from the NHS. This issue is being worked on at a national level and an update is expected shortly. Any queries regarding this issue need to be directed to NHS 119 or to NHS App support rather than the GP practice: <https://www.nhs.uk/contact-us/nhs-app-contact-us/>. If people cannot access online services, and they are due to travel abroad in the near future, they can call 119 to request a letter that will provide evidence of their vaccination status. The NHS Vaccine Resolution Centre has now gone live for those who had COVID vaccinations abroad. This is accessible through 119."

### **Patients who've taken part in clinical trials**

CARS have been receiving a number of enquiries concerning patients who've taken part in clinical trials. The Greenbook states the following regarding this:

"Individuals who are participating in a clinical trial of COVID-19 vaccines who present for vaccination should be referred back to the investigators. Eligible persons who are enrolled in vaccine trials should then be provided with written advice on whether and when they should be safely vaccinated in the routine programme."

Vaccinations that are currently under development or trial will not be accessible via the certification service. NHSE/I are working to ensure those who volunteered to receive a test COVID-19 vaccine in a clinical trial, where that vaccine has now been approved, can access their vaccine status via the NHS App or by calling 119.

**Reminder:** Please send clinical queries and report all clinical incidents, including cold chain incidents, to [england.london-covid19voc@nhs.net](mailto:england.london-covid19voc@nhs.net)

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## **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

### New SEL primary care campaign

South east London is launching a proactive and positive communications campaign to support our general practice colleagues. We know that the pandemic has changed the way that people access primary care services. We want to make sure that general practice remains at the heart of our communities, however it is delivered.

This campaign is designed to raise public understanding and awareness of pressures on general practice, the benefits that remote consultations can offer and the range of different professionals who are working hard to deliver the service and care our patients need. The campaign will also ask the public to please be kind and understand that our staff are working to ensure that you see the right person, at the right time. Abuse of our staff is never acceptable. Over the coming weeks, we may call on you for positive stories, case studies and video content to help us tell this story.

An initial poster for display is available for download [here](#), and a leaflet [here](#). This text is also available to use on your websites and can be downloaded [here](#).

More communications material will be made available shortly. Please do let us know if you have any specific communications needs for your practice.

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### New South East London Integrated Medicines Optimisation Committee (SEL IMOC) website

The new webpages for the South East London Integrated Medicines Optimisation Committee (SEL IMOC - *formerly known as the SEL Area Prescribing Committee, SEL APC*) are now up and running at [www.selondonccg.nhs.uk/selimoc](http://www.selondonccg.nhs.uk/selimoc)

The new SEL IMOC webpages are now part of the NHS South East London CCG website, and sit in the Medicines Optimisation section. **Please update your bookmarks/favourites with the new address.**

The old website will close on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September. Our partners are in the process of updating the [South East London Joint Medicines Formulary \(SEL JMF\) website](#) and OptimiseRX so that any links to SEL IMOC guidance are updated to help make the transition as smooth as possible. Any links to the old SEL IMOC website address will automatically redirect to the NHS South East London CCG website when the old website closes.

Information you can find on the SEL IMOC webpages includes links to clinical guidelines, formulary recommendations and shared care guidelines. Please use the links on the main Committee [webpage](#) to navigate to the specific area you're interested in.

The SEL IMOC webpages have moved over to the NHS South East London CCG website to ensure that we can meet all the accessibility and security legislation NHS websites have to adhere whilst also giving us a more stable platform.

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### New Safeguarding resources for Bexley, Bromley, Lewisham and Southwark

The CCG website has a host of new Information on safeguarding vulnerable adults and children in South East London and how to raise a concern and contact the right people at the right time.

The safeguarding pages for [Bexley](#), [Bromley](#), [Lewisham](#) and [Southwark](#) have had a major overhaul, and include a range of policies, toolkits, guidance, training materials and

patient information. New sections for Greenwich and Lambeth will be online in the coming weeks.

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## Old borough based CCG websites to close on Thursday 30 September

On Thursday 30 September the old borough based CCG websites will all close. The websites have not been updated since the merger to create NHS South East London CCG. All traffic from the old CCG websites will be redirected to the SEL CCG website homepage when they close. As well as the old borough based CCGs no longer being statutory organisations, closing these websites reduces the risk of duplication and people accessing out of date information. The SEL CCG website ensures that we can meet all the accessibility and security legislation NHS websites have to adhere whilst also giving us a more stable platform.

The old websites will still be available through the [National Archives](#). Over the last 18 months SEL CCG and NEL CSU have mapped usage across these old websites and have been in regular contact with editors and administrators to make sure all relevant information has been moved across to the SEL CCG website. Over the last month there have only been pockets of information that have needed to be migrated, and we are confident that everything that needs to be moved has been moved.

As well as automatic redirects from the old sites to the SEL CCG website, a lot of effort has been put into the SEO for each page so all new pages are easily findable both through the search function on the SEL CCG website and through other search engines like Google and Yahoo.

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## South East London Lipid Transformation Programme - Expressions of interest (EOIs)

In preparation for delivery of the lipid targets in the Network Contract Directed Enhanced Services (DES) in April 2022, NHS South East London CCG is launching their lipid transformation programme and is seeking Expressions of interest (EOI) from PCN leads.

The aims of this programme are:

- To improve patient pathways and medicines optimisation for cholesterol management
- Reduce cardiovascular risk in all patients

Further information regarding the recently updated SEL lipid management guidance is available [here](#).

An educational lipid management webinar will be held on **Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup> October at 12.30pm**, and the link for registration may be accessed [here](#).

Please return EOIs by the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021, if you would like to participate as a pilot site for this project. For further information please contact: [Rachel.howatson@nhs.net](mailto:Rachel.howatson@nhs.net) CVD pharmacist, SEL CCG.

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## Urgent mental health support – 24/7 crisis telephone lines available in every London borough.

Every NHS mental health trust in London has put these in place, so children, young people and their families can get help quickly when they need it. Professionals are also

able to access these crisis lines if they are concerned about or would like advice about a child, young person or family. The crisis lines are supported by trained mental health practitioners, who can offer advice and signpost other sources of support as needed.

Please find attached a brief [information pack](#) with details of these crisis lines as well as other support available (e.g. Shout, Good Thinking and Kooth).

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## For information – Lessons Learnt from Quality Alerts

The September 2021 edition of [‘You said - We did.’](#)

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## PCN Dashboard data refresh

The dashboard supports PCNs to understand their local population health priorities and the benefits they are delivering for their patients. It also helps PCNs to identify opportunities to reduce unwarranted variation in performance within their PCN and between PCNs, in order to improve services. Performance against each IIF indicator was expected to be available monthly by PCN and constituent practice from Summer 2021, however, there has been a delay in updating the PCN dashboard on NHS ViewPoint with data for 2021/22.

NHSE/I has now confirmed that the 2021/22 data for April – June (including a range of additional indicators) will be uploaded by October 8th, after which regular updates will follow throughout the year.

To access the dashboard, please either register on the Insight Platform [Register | NHS England applications \(model.nhs.uk\)](#) or log in using your existing Insights Platform account, and then select the NHS ViewPoint product. A user guide is available to help navigate the dashboard.

## 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.

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### Reminder: Changes to Urgent Treatment Centre at King’s College Hospital (Denmark Hill)

From next Monday (4 October), urgent care services at King’s College Hospital (Denmark Hill site) will be run in partnership with Greenbrook Healthcare.

The decision to form a partnership with Greenbrook is designed to help the Trust deliver improvements to the service – and to reduce waiting times for patients, which are longer than we would wish at present.

Greenbrook already provide urgent care services in a number of hospitals, including at the PRUH, where they have managed the Urgent Care Centre service for a number of years.

The Urgent Treatment Centre at King's will continue to be open 24/7 under the partnership with Greenbrook.

People accessing urgent care services at Denmark Hill from 4 October will be seen first by a nurse to assess where they should receive the care they need. Doctors and nurses in the UTC will treat a range of minor injuries and illnesses.

Any patients assessed and judged to require emergency care will be seen by staff in the Emergency Department at King's in exactly the same way as they are currently.

## 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 \(29 September 2021\)](#)

### Cancer services alert update for Primary Care - Suspected skin cancers – referral volume and waiting times

- Referral volumes for suspected skin cancer are extremely high currently.
- Although periods of high demand during the summer period are expected, the recent referral volume received is at exceptional levels.
- Trusts are under a huge amount of pressure to meet the volume of demand on their services, which is causing extended waits for 1<sup>st</sup> appointments for suspected skin cancer.
- There is urgent work ongoing across all sites in SEL to reduce waiting times to acceptable levels, and your support in this will be extremely important:
  - GPs are asked to ensure all patients are reviewed face to face prior to making a 2WW referral to ensure a full review of any suspected cancerous lesions.
  - Trusts have received 2WW referrals which clearly state cancer is not suspected and referral is a means to be seen more quickly, this is entirely inappropriate and poses a substantial risk to patients with possible cancer who face a longer wait as a result of this additional, unnecessary demand on services.
  - Specialist advice can be obtained by GPs across SEL through Consultant Connect, using photos of suspicious lesions, and should be used in cases where confidence in suspected cancer is not high (*you can download the Consultant Connect app on your phone*).

#### Ongoing mitigations:

- Work across all provider sites is ongoing to maximise capacity available and share resources across the system.
- Opportunities to bring additional capacity into the system are ongoing (e.g. use of independent sector).
- Continued monitoring of demand on services to provide up to date information to all parties.
- Ongoing communication to primary care to ensure transparency and request support.

## Online seminars, webinars and e-Learning

### South London Physician Associate primary care forum.

SWL and SEL Physician Associate Ambassadors have organised a pilot physician associate forum for primary care PAs. The aim of this forum is to provide primary care physician associates with greater access to CPD learning opportunities and peer networking and support. They aim to hold these sessions every 3 months.

The first session will focus on paediatrics. Register [here](#).

- **Tuesday 19th October 2021 - 14:00-16:30**
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### Free GP virtual events from GSTT

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

- **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](#).

- **Cow's milk allergy in children**

Interactive virtual seminar where you will learn how to appropriately prescribe oral nutritional supplements and Cow's Milk Protein Allergy formulas. Questions will be taken at the end of the talk.

- **Friday 22 October 2021 - 13:30 to 14.30**

Register for the talk [here](#).

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### Webinar - Self-care for better health care

With the growing pressure placed on primary care leaders, the London Leadership and Lifelong Learning Team are working with Dame Clare Gerada and [Doctors in Distress](#) to deliver a webinar for leaders to reflect on the demands of their role and how they practice compassionate leadership for their own well-being and to support their teams to deliver the best care possible for their patients.

- **Monday 15 November 2021 – 12.30 to 14.00** on Zoom.

Find more information and register [here](#).

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## Reminder - Webinar – Accessing Dermatology Advice and Guidance via PhotoSAF

SEL CCG will be running a webinar on how to use the PhotoSAF feature in the Consultant Connect app to get rapid dermatology advice and guidance from Consultant Dermatologists at GSTT. This session is open to all primary care clinicians, regardless of whether you have used PhotoSAF before. There will be a live demonstration of how to use PhotoSAF, a chance to hear from a Consultant Dermatologist and an opportunity to ask question about the service.

- **Tuesday 5 October – 13.00 to 13.30.**

Register [here](#).

If you are unable to make the webinar, you can still register your place to automatically receive a copy of the webinar recording.

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## Reminder - Launch of the London General Practice Access Guide and webinars

[The London General Practice Access Guide and the supporting London General Practice Access Manual](#) have been created to support general practices manage current access pressures.

Healthy London Partnership are running webinars during September and October 2021 which will cover each of the main chapters. The webinars are aimed at local practice teams and will support consideration into local access improvement projects.

Recording of webinar 1 from 15 September: Introduction to the General Practice Access Guide & an effective access system, [click here to view the recording](#)

- Achieving team happiness and effectiveness through good access - **Wednesday 29 September – 17.00 to 18.00**
- How to make local services work best for your patients - **Wednesday 6 October – 17.00 to 18.00**
- The key ingredients for access improvement - **Wednesday 13 October - 17.00 to 18.00**

For further details, including how to register, please click [here](#).

If you have any queries, contact the Transforming Primary Care team at [england.londonprimarycaretransformation@nhs.net](mailto:england.londonprimarycaretransformation@nhs.net).

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## Pathology Service Transfer - webinar recording now available

For those who were not able to attend the webinar on 15 September about the transfer of pathology services in Bexley, Greenwich and Lewisham, a recording is available [here](#).

The webinar was hosted by representatives from SYNLAB and Viapath, gave information on work being undertaken to ensure a smooth, safe and seamless transfer of services and ended with an open Q&A session.

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## Two-day training course - motivational interviewing skills when working with patients with severe mental illness



The Mind & Body Programme is working with Maudsley Learning to offer primary care staff the opportunity to attend a two-day training course on motivational interviewing skills when working with patients with severe mental illness. The training is open to anyone working clinically within primary e.g. nursing, GPs, AHPs, and is being offered nationally, with 37 places available on a first-come-first-serve basis. The deadline for sign up is 8 October 2021. For more information and to sign-up, email [marta.ortegavega@slam.nhs.uk](mailto:marta.ortegavega@slam.nhs.uk).

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## Workshops - Good Thinking: Reducing Digital Inequalities

During October and November 2021, Good Thinking will run four workshops (via Microsoft Teams) to explore the impacts of digital exclusion and also the risks of connecting vulnerable or reluctant individuals to the digital world.

Digital Inclusion Workshop I: Should Everyone Go Online?

- **Tuesday 5 October - 12.00 to 13.00.**

Sign up [here](#).

Find more information about upcoming workshops [here](#).

## Events

### King's Health Partners Annual Conference – virtual

An opportunity to celebrate the significant achievements, outstanding learning, innovative science and impactful care the partnership has delivered throughout the pandemic and hear from nationally and internationally renowned speakers.

- **Thursday 7 October 2021 - 8.30 to 15.00**

More details and how to register [here](#).

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