



Issue 102/Wednesday 06 October 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

Latest IPC guidance to general practice

[Arrangements for primary care](#) from July 2021, contractors should continue to offer a blended approach of face-to-face and remote appointments, with digital triage where possible (all patients to be triaged for symptoms of COVID prior to appointment).

[New recommendations for primary and community health care providers in England](#) was updated on 29 September 2021 and summarises what general practice need to consider to reduce the risk of COVID transmission.

[Guidance for maintaining services with health and care settings](#) was updated on 29 September 2021. Primary care considerations are listed in section 4.6. More generally, the guidance supports the use of face masks remain an IPC measure as well as 2m social distancing, hand hygiene for staff, patients/individuals and visitors. Environmental cleaning considerations are also detailed.

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

The national influenza programme 2021/22

[Letter from NHSE/I](#) from September 29 2021 regarding vaccination of frontline primary care health care workers and available funding.

2021-2022 Flu season resources

Please see the following [link](#) for all available Flu resources intended for 2021-2022. This webpage includes a link to the National Protocol for the inactivated influenza vaccine and ovalbumin content. Additionally the [Flu vaccines for the 2021 to 2022 season poster](#) provides a helpful summary of the different vaccines available and the eligibility criteria for various age ranges.

Alcohol related risk reduction scheme

The [Alcohol Related Risk Reduction Scheme](#) service for 2021/22 has been offered to GP practices on CQRS. This service is a contractual requirement; please accept the service offer on [CQRS](#) at the earliest opportunity to ensure that data is extracted when the scheduled extraction window opens.

Medication brand switch within King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Change to Modified Release Morphine Brand across King's College Hospital. Please read in full [here](#). The patient information leaflet is [here](#).

Smartcard and IT systems access control audit

A reminder to GP practices and staff to ensure that after changes to staff roles, or when staff leave an organisation, access to the Care Identity Service (Smartcards) and other clinical IT systems are updated or revoked. It is recommended that an audit is completed, at least quarterly to check your staff records against the CIS system and other IT systems to ensure the controls remain up to date. Please find more information [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.

Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust – message from Therapies and Rehabilitation

The GSTT Therapies and Rehabilitation Directorate are asking patients with Trust issued crutches that are no longer required to be returned to Therapies Reception, Ground Floor Tower wing at Guy's Hospital. These can be returned to the department Monday to Friday between 8am and 5pm. This enables the Trust to recycle and reuse our medical equipment.

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 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 1st 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

Reminder - 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 is to provide primary care physician associates with greater access to CPD learning opportunities and peer networking and support. The first session will focus on paediatrics. Register [here](#).

- **Tuesday 19th October 2021 - 14:00-16:30**

Webinar - Doctors in Distress

Recovery in the time of COVID: What now for the mental health of our healthcare workers?' Includes discussion.

- **Monday 11 October 2021 - 18.00 to 19.30.**

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

Workshops - Good Thinking: Reducing Digital Inequalities

During October and November 2021, Good Thinking will run 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.

- Can you achieve good health if just offline? Tuesday 19 October - 12.00 to 13.00. Book [here](#).
- Are Digital Skills key to better health? Tuesday 2 November – 12.00 to 13.00. Book [here](#).
- Is NHS Digital Transformation good for all? Tuesday 16 November - 12:00 to 13.00. Book [here](#).

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

Webinar - How to feel more confident while having COVID vaccine conversations with patients, colleagues and the public

NHSE/I have shared an educational webinar, which provides guidance to healthcare professionals on how to drive behavior change and address concerns around vaccine hesitancy. Watch the recorded webinar [here](#).

Maudsley Learning course – PTSD in primary care

One-day interactive simulation training course: [PTSD in Primary Care](#). This course is open to clinicians working in Primary Care with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder patients who may not have disclosed their experiences - or are not accessing the appropriate support for their symptoms.

Wednesday 8 December 2021 - 9:00 to 17:00.

[Register for your free place here](#) (enter coupon code HEEPTSD at checkout)

NHS Covid-19 Q&A Live Event for HSCW

There is an opportunity for all health and social care workers to ask questions, clinical or otherwise, about the Covid Booster, the 'Evergreen' offer (1st & 2nd doses) and the flu vaccine. Any general questions are also welcome.

- **Tuesday 12 October 2021, 12.30-13.30.** More information can be found [here](#).

Resources

COVID-19 vaccine: latest communications resources

Latest resources for vaccines for 12-15 year olds have been updated and are on the [CommsLink on FutureNHS](#). There is a range of other resources in the same folder available for 12-15 year olds who are immunosuppressed and 16-17 year olds.

COVID-19 vaccine: anti-vaccination campaigners

Please find attached a [short comms pack](#) with support about what sites can do to deal with misinformation and how local teams can respond to challenging and intimidating behaviour from campaigners

COVID-19 vaccine: Translated resources for Children and Young People

NEL have translated the [COVID-19 vaccination for children and young people aged 12 to 15 years](#) leaflet into **Spanish** and **Bengali**. [You can download them here](#)

Other news

Health and Social Care Secretary visits Mosaic Clubhouse in Lambeth

On Friday 1 October, Health and Social Care Secretary, Sajid Javid, visited Mosaic Clubhouse to launch the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), which will focus on the prevention of health conditions before they develop, and help people live longer, healthier and happier lives.

Mosaic Clubhouse in Brixton, supports people who are living with a mental health condition in the London Borough of Lambeth, it is funded by partners in the [Lambeth Living Well Network Alliance](#), part of the wider Our Healthier South East London Integrated Care System, providing access to education and employment, crisis support and information.

Read the story in full [here](#).

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