



Issue 103/Wednesday 13 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

Implementation of JCVI guidance for vaccinating severely immunosuppressed individuals with a third primary dose

On 1 September the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) published guidance on third doses of COVID-19 vaccinations for individuals aged 12 years and over who were severely immunosuppressed at the time of their first or second dose.

These people are some of the most vulnerable in our society to COVID-19 as they may not mount a full response to vaccination and therefore may be less protected than the wider population.

ACTIONS NOW REQUIRED

- Practices are asked to ensure they have access to the GP COVID-19 vaccine dashboard which is accessed via smartcard [user guide](#).
- Practices should review the indicative practice level list of patients that will be uploaded by NHS Digital to the GP COVID-19 vaccine dashboard. This will support identification of patients via NHS number that national coding data suggest may be eligible for a third primary dose.
- Practices should have contacted patients identified via the GP COVID-19 vaccine dashboard or local searches of their registered list by **11 October** and offer a third primary dose through their PCN.
- The third dose should be recorded as a booster dose in the point of care system.
- Practices that are not delivering the COVID-19 vaccination enhanced service should have shared a list of eligible patients, based on those identified via the GP COVID-19 vaccine dashboard, with their local commissioner (CCG) by **11 October**.
- Those NHS trusts that are unable to offer a vaccination on site, it is expected a consultant letter will be sent directly to the patient, copied to their GP, to support vaccination elsewhere.

The third primary dose should ideally be given at least 8 weeks after the second dose, with special attention paid to current or planned immunosuppressive therapies guided by the following principles:

- where possible, the third primary dose should be delayed until 2 weeks after the period of immunosuppression, in addition to the time period for clearance of the therapeutic agent
- if not possible, consideration should be given to vaccination during a treatment 'holiday' or at a nadir of immunosuppression between doses of treatment

Further information on JCVI guidance for this cohort can be found here: [guidance](#)
Next steps for Primary Care Networks: [letter](#)

The JCVI List of eligible individuals can be found here: [Annex A](#)

Any issues in accessing the dashboard should be raised with ssd.nationalservicedesk@nhs.net.

Clarification between booster vaccination programme and third dose for those who are immunosuppressed

Thank you for your efforts to vaccinate our vulnerable population against COVID-19. We thought it would be helpful to clarify the difference between the booster vaccination programme and the third dose for those who are immunosuppressed:

COVID -19 Booster vaccinations

These are available for groups such as those over 50, front line health and social care workers, people who live and work in care homes and those aged 16 and over who are at risk. This list is not exhaustive.

The aim of this booster programme is to manage waning immunity after the original 2 doses of the vaccine. People who are eligible should have the booster dose six months after their second dose. It is possible for most people in the eligible groups to book themselves for the booster.

Third COVID-19 Vaccination for immunosuppressed

For those with impaired immunity, the third dose is part of the 'primary vaccination.' It is separate from the booster programme.

These patients are those who have been on immunosuppressive or immunomodulating treatment at the time of vaccination, and includes those who are or have been receiving immunosuppressive therapy for a solid organ transplant in the previous six months and those who have had targeted therapy for an autoimmune disorder in the previous three months. A full list is given in the relevant chapter of the green book.

It may not be possible for such patients to self-refer for a third primary dose and they will need to be invited by their GP or by a specialist. These patients may also contact the practice themselves. The third primary dose should be given at least 8 weeks after the second dose. **Patients do not need to have a six month gap between dose 2 and dose 3.**

It is possible that those who have a third primary dose will also need a booster in time, but this is not yet confirmed.

We would be very grateful if this information could be shared with your reception staff, and any other staff booking and delivering vaccination, so that patients are given the correct information.

GSTT paediatric pod

GSTT are currently running the CEV Paeds clinic on Saturdays 9am to 5pm at their site: **St. Thomas' Vaccination Centre 1, Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7EH.**

The plan is to run them every Saturday for at least the next 3-4 weeks.

To book please email Covid Vaccine Bookings CovidVaccineBookings@gstt.nhs.uk and state:

- that the booking is required for the 12-15yo CEV clinic
- Child's name
- D.O.B
- NHS number (if available) not essential for booking but will be needed at the appointment
- Parent's mobile number (for confirmation of booking text)

Alternatively, the site also accepts walk-ins during this time.

If your centres have a list of patients, GSTT are more than happy for the list to be sent to Andrea.Fernandes@gstt.nhs.uk with the Name, D.O.B, postcode and parent's mobile. A text will be arranged to be sent to each parent with a unique booking looking for the booking to be made automatically.

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

Update: Becton Dickinson blood specimen collection - supply disruption

Due to the mitigations in place and the efforts of colleagues across the NHS the supply situation has stabilised but with supplies not yet back at normal levels. To reflect the current position, and to avoid putting further pressure on stock, as the situation continues to recover, the following changes to the guidance issued on 16 September can take place from today:

- Testing activity in acute trusts, community hospitals and mental health trusts, in line with the best practice guidance can, local stocks permitting, resume.
- GP teams should continue to follow the best practice guidance.
- The situation reporting established for acute trusts, community hospitals and mental health trusts will now move to a weekly collection, taking place on Tuesdays.
- Organisations are reminded to continue to order little and often during this period of recovery and to restock gradually. Organisations should regularly review their stock holding and upcoming planned care requirements and aim to re-stock with one week's worth of tubes based on demand in June and July 2021.

Please read the letter from 8 October 2021 in full [here](#).

Nasal Flu Vaccination for needle phobia including people with learning disabilities

Please see [PHE guidance](#) for GP practices on encouraging vulnerable groups, such as people with learning disabilities, to take up their influenza vaccine this winter. Included in this guidance are the reasonable adjustments which may be necessary to ensure people with learning disabilities have equal access to treatment. One example is prescription of live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) administered nasally where there is severe needle phobia which may result in refusal of the vaccine, more information for which can be found [here](#). If you need to discuss vaccination options you can email the CCG Medicines Optimisation Team on rena.amin@nhs.net or thomas.lee5@nhs.net.

The [communications toolkit from 2020/21](#) can also support outreach and uptake.

Message from Kings College Hospital regarding electronic discharge summaries

It has recently come to our attention that 7701 electronic discharge summaries were not automatically sent to you and your colleagues. The issue affects a number of practices across all Boroughs and occurred in July 2021. The majority of the delayed discharge summaries (5080) were sent out in September 2021 to the relevant practices as part of the IT work to address the problem. A further cohort of these delayed discharge summaries, 2080, which are spread across all Boroughs and therefore affect a number of practices will be sent out by close of business on 15 October 2021 and the Trust wanted to highlight this to you ahead of time. The Trust apologises for the impact that this may have on your patients and for the additional work and inconvenience this may cause for you.

The Trust is very grateful to GP colleagues who have used the GP alert process to highlight this problem in recent weeks. It was the alerts received via this pathway that helped us identify the problem. If you do identify that there has been an impact on patients as a result of these delays, please do report this using the quality alert process and we will investigate and communicate with patients affected. The Trust will continue to triangulate feedback from GP alerts, incidents and complaints to understand and respond to the impact on patients as a result of this IT problem. Please submit your Quality Alert via [DCIQ: NHS South East London CCG Quality Alerts reporting form \(datixcloudiq.co.uk\)](#)

The Trust also wants to assure you that it has taken action to remedy the IT problem which caused this, including the introduction of much more robust monitoring of any discharge summaries which have not been sent, or not been sent within expected timeframes. We remain grateful for your help and support in managing this situation.

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

In preparation for the 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 PCNs. A gentle reminder that EOIs need to be submitted by **18 October 2021**.

The aims of this programme are:

- Reduce cardiovascular risk in all patients by optimising first-line lipid interventions in primary care

- Focus on reducing cardiovascular risk through appropriate primary and secondary prevention lipid management strategies
- Improve patient pathways within South East London.
- To use appropriate primary care coding to support identification and local referral for the diagnosis and management of patients with familial hypercholesterolaemia.
- Develop bespoke training for clinical staff on optimal lipid management and use community of practice sessions to identify further training needs.

Please note that SEL lipid management guidance has recently been updated and is available [here](#).

Please contact Rachel.howatson@nhs.net for a copy of the EOI form.

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.

Reminder - 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 \(11 October 2021\)](#)

Healthy Populations Cancer Updates

Bowel Screening Age Extension

GPs should be aware that there has been an age extension for the Bowel Cancer Screening Programme (BCSP). The population that is eligible to receive a Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) has been expanded to include 50–59-year-olds, this will be gradually rolled out. Please see [attached](#) for further information and FAQs.

Cervical Screening for Transgender Men

GPs should be made aware of cervical screening services for transgender men, these take place at CliniQ run by KCH through booked appointment only at the Camberwell site.

Referral to Macmillan Direct Services from Primary Care

The SEL Cancer Alliance have recently worked with EMIS to embed a referral form to Macmillan's direct services so that GPs, or anyone in the Primary Care Teams can send a referral off for people who might have specific needs. Through the Support Line, people can be signposted to various specialist teams to help with Welfare rights, Financial Support, Work and Cancer, and Energy Benefits as well as being able to speak to the specialist nurses. Please see further information [attached](#).

Online seminars, webinars and e-Learning

Data Security and Protection Toolkit - Data Protection Officer drop-in session

The next drop-in session is on privacy notices and confidentiality audits:

- **Wednesday 10 November 12:30 to 13.30.**

To attend, please email claireclements@nhs.net. All other enquires for the NHS SEL CCG GP practices members DPO service must be directed through nelcsu.information-governance@nhs.net

BGL pathology transfer update – drop in virtual Q&As

As the transfer of pathology services in Bexley, Greenwich and Lewisham approaches, two virtual 'drop-in' Q&A sessions will give GP practices and colleagues in community care services another chance to speak directly to the NHS and Viapath.

- **Thursday 21 October – 12.00 to 13.00** [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- **Wednesday 27 October – 14.00 to 15.00** [Click here to join the meeting](#)

In addition, a series of 'e-briefs' are being issued to those practices directly affected by the October 29 transfer of pathology services, to help provide them with the information and support they need.

Health literacy course

Free 35-minute online health literacy course which is designed for anyone working with or supporting patients, families and carers. [Sign up](#) on the NHS e-learning for healthcare platform. Find out more about improving [Health Literacy](#).

Resources

Winter vaccinations – communications toolkit for health and social care staff campaign.

PHE have produced a range of communications material for the Health and Social Care Worker Winter vaccination campaign. The toolkit is designed to encourage staff to get

the flu vaccine and COVID-19 booster. It includes key messages for social media, posters and leaflets. Materials can be downloaded [here](#).

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