



**Issue 105/Wednesday 27 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

### 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

### Process to order central flu stock - general practice

From 25 October, you may order flu vaccinations from the nationally held stock. London Region Immunisation Team has provided [a slide-set](#) that outlines the ordering process.

Please note:

- This stock is available free of charge and you should order what you need to meet patient demand.
- The link to the order form is given in slide 2
- Although you may start ordering from 25 October 2021, stock from Sequirus and Viatrix (formerly Mylan) will be available from mid-November and stock from Sanofi Pasteur will be available from early November
- Please allow 2 weeks for stock to arrive
- Please note Supemtek® does not come with needles and you will be required to provide or order your own needles
- The additional stock can be used to vaccinate frontline healthcare workers and patients in the eligible cohorts
- QIVr is suitable for adults 18 to 64 years old, and suitable for adults over 65 years where aQIV is not available
- If you access national stock, you should have exhausted all of your local stock first. You should not have any unused local stock if you have accessed

additional stock. Manufacturers will also require you to confirm as part of the declaration process for ordering additional stock that you will not return any stock you have previously ordered directly from them.

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## **Update - use of LAIV in adults over 18 years old with Learning Disabilities**

Adults with learning disabilities experience significant barriers to vaccination such as needle phobia - this can lead to the patient being unvaccinated. Please see the [attached note](#) regarding clinical guidance in relation to the use of LAIV, for exceptional circumstances, to ensure the protection of those most at risk this flu season.

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## **#MHRA MedSafetyWeek campaign: 1-7 November 2021**

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) are launching their sixth annual MedSafetyWeek social media campaign for 2021 between 1 to 7 November, and the theme for this year is vaccines safety.

The annual #MedSafetyWeek forms part an international effort to raise awareness about the importance of reporting suspected adverse reactions by national medicines regulatory authorities. To date 65 countries across the globe have signed up to this campaign.

Healthcare professionals can support this campaign by:

- Encouraging people to look out for and [report side effects](#) from vaccines to national reporting systems
- Educating the public on how to report side effects of vaccines and medicines
- Educating the public on the safe use of medicines
- Increasing awareness of pharmacovigilance processes

The key messages to communicate to the public include:

- Vaccines are the most effective way to prevent infectious diseases and save millions of lives worldwide
- Vaccines, like all medicines, can cause side effects
- Suspected side effects should be [reported](#)

[The Coronavirus Yellow Card reporting site](#) should be used for suspected side effects to medicines and vaccines or medical device and diagnostic adverse incidents used in coronavirus treatment.

Please see the [link](#) for further information about the campaign and additional [resources](#).

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## **Primary care campaign – we need your help**

A public south east London wide primary care campaign will be delivered this autumn/winter to help with the public understanding and perception of primary care services in general practice and the subsequent treatment of primary care staff by members of the public and the media. As plans for this campaign are developed, we are seeking the help of our primary care colleagues to help bring the campaign to life.

As part of that campaign we want to make an early start in introducing and profiling the range of professionals working as part of multi-disciplinary primary care teams, showcase innovation, digital transformation, successful systems and use of e-consult for example. We want to humanise our primary care workforce – show the people behind the ‘headlines’ and the critical work they do as part of a wider health and care system.

To achieve this, please could you help us in the following ways:

- **Be a case study:** Those that work as part of the primary care workforce including nurses, pharmacists, physician associates, physios etc – to come forward if they are happy to be featured in case studies. This would include answering a few questions about their role, a photograph or possibly a short video which would be used for various comms to promote the multi-disciplinary team. We also want to tell the public that they may be seen by any member of the MDT as appropriate.
- **Share your successes:** Any innovative work you would like us to feature in the future campaign. For example assisted technology/digital innovations, new telephone systems that improve management of patient queries, triage signposting, social prescribing, how you are supporting the digitally excluded and any PPGs that are successfully supporting their practice by getting wider health and care information and behaviour change messages out to the practice patient list. These are just some examples.

Everything that is sent will be considered – as well as any other ideas you may have to help showcase your practice or primary care services in general. The more content we have, the more varied and compelling the campaign will be. Please send your suggestions to [Selccg.communications@nhs.net](mailto:Selccg.communications@nhs.net) by 5 November 2021.

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## Important update on BGL pathology services

A briefing went out to GP practices earlier this week about a decision to defer the transfer of pathology services in Bexley, Greenwich and Lewisham (BGL) to Viapath. The transfer was due to be completed on October 29. The decision, agreed between all parties, will allow for further review and testing to be undertaken to ensure full assurance before proceeding. An update on revised timeframes will be provided as soon as possible.

A statement about the deferment can be found on the dedicated [BGL microsite](#), which also includes a raft of useful information for practices.

For further queries can email [contactus@synlab.co.uk](mailto:contactus@synlab.co.uk).

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## For information – Lessons Learnt from Quality Alerts

The October 2021 edition of Lessons Learnt – [‘You said, we did’](#).

## 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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## Delays in radiology reporting at GSTT

GSTT currently has a backlog of acquired CT and MRI scans, as well as plain films, awaiting reporting by radiologists and reporting radiographers. This is due to a combination of increased scanning activity to address waiting lists, unfilled vacancies and high levels of leave over the summer and September.

We continue to prioritise scheduling, scan acquisition and reporting of cancer pathway and urgent requests. However, routine scans may now regularly take between 4-8 weeks to report. This reporting time line is in addition to the waiting time for a scan appointment. In MRI and non-obstetric ultrasound in particular, some patients are having to wait longer than the 6 week target for routine scans due to high demand and capacity constraints.

We are continually reviewing our capacity, including utilising extra weekend lists where staffing allows, and out-sourcing a small proportion of MRI and ultrasound requests. We hope that imminent recruitment to radiologist posts will help to address the delays in reporting of MRI and CT.

There are information notices for patients in our departments about the reporting delays, and we will ensure a consistent message is delivered to your teams from our administrative teams.

Thank you for your understanding and patience.

For any questions contact Samantha Mitchell, Clinical Governance Manager,  
[Samantha.Mitchell@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:Samantha.Mitchell@gstt.nhs.uk)

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## Message from Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust regarding the Dermatology 2week wait (2WW) service at QEH

QEH has been receiving an unprecedented, sustained high number of 2WW referrals for dermatology and do not have the capacity to meet the high demand. The Trust is acutely aware of the risks to patients awaiting appointments for potential delayed diagnosis/treatment and have a mitigation plan in place to reduce the risk of harm. All 2WW patients are reported daily and the team is liaising with UHL to seek capacity at their site.

The Trust wants to assure you that it has taken action and the mitigation plan includes the recruitment of two additional dermatology consultants on 1yr contracts (in progress), additional clinics at weekends (depending on consultant availability) and moving routine clinic slots to 2WW appointments. Clinics are also being overbooked on a daily basis to increase capacity and there is a daily forward look to ensure all slots are fully utilised.

Discussions are being held with the SEL cancer network and collaborative work is ongoing with the CCG and other community partners to review dermatology service provision across LGT and community. There are also weekly meetings to review all patients on the PTL and with the divisional director of operations for escalation at the Trust Cancer assurance weekly meeting.

The Trust remains grateful for your help and support in managing this situation.

**General Practice reminder:** please use the Quality Alert system to report any event of patient harm resulting from delayed radiology results [DCIQ: NHS South East London CCG Quality Alerts reporting form \(datixcloudiq.co.uk\)](#)

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

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### Information for GPs and Practice Staff involved in Cervical Cancer Screening

Please see attached [communication from the Cervical Screening Laboratory \(CSL\)](#) for London in relation to delays in the results of some samples being processed.

We have been reassured that these delays are the vast minority of cases (98% processed within the 14 days expected), with delays due to constraints on consultant cytologist capacity. There is ongoing work to address this capacity constraint, as well as interim measures to increase capacity in the short-term.

SEL CCG and the SEL Cancer Alliance are closely monitoring the situation and are working with screening partners in London to ensure the situation is rectified as soon as possible. If you have any questions, or wish to raise further concerns, please do contact your borough GP cancer lead:

**Lambeth** - Dr George Pavey [georgepavey@nhs.net](mailto:georgepavey@nhs.net)

**Southwark** - Dr Nicola Weaver [nicola.weaver@nhs.net](mailto:nicola.weaver@nhs.net)

**Bromley** - Dr Rebecca Long [rebecca.long2@nhs.net](mailto:rebecca.long2@nhs.net)

**Greenwich** - Dr Caroline Hollington [carolinehollington@nhs.net](mailto:carolinehollington@nhs.net)

**Lewisham** - Dr Esther Appleby [estherappleby@nhs.net](mailto:estherappleby@nhs.net)

**Bexley** - Dr Winnie Kwan [winnie.kwan@nhs.net](mailto:winnie.kwan@nhs.net)

## Online seminars, webinars and e-Learning

### General practice 'Demand and Capacity' webinars

Three free webinars, which are designed to help general practices understand local demand and capacity, will be delivered by the NHS Time for Care team between November-December 2021. Please visit the [Healthy London Partnership website](#) for more details. General practice staff can register to attend the webinars [here](#).

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### NHS and new patient health check training

For HCAS. **Wednesday 3 November 2021 – 9.15 to 16:15 on Zoom.**

Sign up [here](#).

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## COVID vaccine and pregnancy – Facebook and Instagram Lives

- **Thursday 28 October at 18.30 - Facebook Live with Dr Catherine**
- **Wednesday 3 November at 18.30 - Instagram Live with Dr Surabhi**
- **Thursday 11 November at 18.30 - Facebook Live with Dr Catherine**

LIVE Ask the Expert Q&A on Facebook and Instagram for anyone with questions answered around pregnancy, fertility, and the latest advice on COVID-19 vaccination for pregnant women and expectant families. To join the session, visit [www.instagram.com/our\\_healthier\\_sel](https://www.instagram.com/our_healthier_sel) or [www.facebook.com/nhsselondonccg](https://www.facebook.com/nhsselondonccg) at the stated time.

## Resources

### Primary Care Health and Wellbeing Offer

Please [find attached information](#) on the national support offers available to all NHS people, to help you manage your own health and wellbeing whilst looking after others. These offers are intended to compliment any local support programmes in place, including occupational health and wellbeing services and Employee Assistance Programmes (EAP).

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### New - Public facing materials for this year's winter vaccination campaign

This year's campaign is encouraging the public to boost their immunity with these two essential vaccines - flu and COVID-19 booster - ahead of winter. There are now [A3](#) and [A4 Posters](#), [Email Signatures](#), [Digital Screens](#) and a [Social Media Toolkit](#) available, and materials available for download including [Half Term information on testing](#).

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### Reminder - Health and Social Care Workers Winter Vaccinations Campaign

Communication resources such as posters, leaflets and social media messaging are available [here](#).

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