



Issue 108/Wednesday 17 November 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

Vaccination programme

Please see [updated Green Book chapter 14a](#) to include: second doses for 16 to 17 year olds and booster doses for 40 to 49 year olds; further clarification on booster timing flexibility; guidance on deferral after COVID-19 infection in under 18s; and other minor edits for clarification. See also [NHSE/I letter](#) on booster vaccinations for those aged 40-49 and second doses for 16 and 17-year olds.

Change in guidance: 12-17 year olds who have tested positive for Covid in last 12 months

Previously, the Green Book advised that vaccination should be deferred until clinical recovery from covid-19 infection to around four weeks after onset of symptoms or four weeks from the first confirmed positive specimen in those who are asymptomatic. It also recognised that vaccination of individuals who may be infected but asymptomatic or incubating COVID-19 infection is unlikely to have a detrimental effect on the illness.

As a precautionary measure after review of the latest clinical data by JCVI, UKHSA have updated the [Green Book](#) to amend this deferral period to 12 weeks for those under 18. The green book now says:

In younger people, protection from natural infection is likely to be high for a period of months, and vaccination in those recently infected may increase the chance of side effects. Therefore, **vaccination should ideally be deferred till at least twelve weeks from onset (or sample date) in children and young people under 18 years who are not in clinical risk groups.** This includes children and young people who developed Paediatric multisystem inflammatory syndrome temporally associated with SARS-CoV-2 infection (PIMS-TS) in association with COVID-19 infection and then become eligible for vaccination. Current advice in PIMS-TS cases suggests that an interval of 12 weeks

should be observed, although earlier administration can be considered in those at risk of infection and/or who are fully recovered.

For any questions please contact england.covidvaccs@nhs.net

Mandated covid vaccine for staff in frontline jobs

Following [the announcement](#) that NHS staff will be mandated to have the Covid vaccine if they are to continue working in frontline jobs, all sites are encouraged to work with their unvaccinated staff to encourage them to take their first and second doses.

NHSE/I Moderna toolkit

As many people are less familiar with the Moderna vaccine, NHSE/I have prepared a [toolkit](#) to provide clinicians and NHS staff with messaging that can be used to reassure the public that the Moderna vaccine is safe, effective and appropriate.

NHSE/I public line on switching vaccine type

Following the change to the Green Book that states people can get a different type of vaccine for their second dose to their first does (e.g., getting Pfizer for second dose if had AZ as first dose), NHSE/I have provided a response to help with any questions from the public. This has been signed off by the regional clinical vaccine lead:

I want to get a different vaccine from the one that I had for my first dose. Can I?

It's generally advised that you receive the same vaccine for the second dose as you received for the first. However, it's now possible to get a different second dose of COVID-19 vaccine to your first, where there is availability. Talk to the healthcare professional on site who will be happy to explain benefits and possible side effects.

COVID-19 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 and below:

Staff testing: Reminder that all staff vaccinated or unvaccinated, should still be undertaking twice weekly asymptomatic testing using lateral flow test kits obtained from the .gov website (See below) and reporting ALL results on the government website. This is still needed to protect staff, colleagues, family member and patients within their care. It is advised when reporting to set up an account, this makes it quicker to report subsequent test results as previous information is pre-populated. You can also scan the QR code on the test cartridge in cases where the text is too small to read easily.

Lateral flow test kits for vaccination sites: Please note that staff and volunteers should be accessing test kits via the national government website and should be testing and reporting before attending site. Order: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> and Report: [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). However, sites are still encouraged to hold a small supply for emergency use in cases where staff or volunteers turn up without having tested. Please let the SEL CCG Testing Team selccg.covidtesting@nhs.net know if you need any small supplies

for emergency use and we will support obtaining a small number of kits from our Local Authority Partners.

PCR kits in surgeries: Reminder that GP practices should have a small stock of PCR kits for use in emergencies for staff or patients who present with possible covid symptoms. Assistance in ordering these can be made via the Specialist Team via 119. Please follow the link for information. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-testing-in-general-practice>

Changes to collection of lateral flow kits from local sites and pharmacies: Many collection sites are now requiring a 'collection code' before issuing up to 2 lateral flow test kits (7 tests in each box). The code can be obtained by following the information on the government website <https://test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/collect-lateral-flow-kits> to obtain a collect code via text and email. Alternatively, some collection points are displaying a QR code which can be scanned to access a form which once completed will generate a collect code.

Lateral flow instructions in other languages: SEL have successfully managed to petition for the 3 main languages used by Afghanistan's to support the many other translations already available. These can now be found on the government website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-self-test-help>

Any testing questions please contact avril.satchwell@nhs.net Head of SEL CCG Covid Testing or the wider SEL Testing Team at selccg.covidtesting@nhs.net

GP updates

Vigilance around inappropriate use of home nebulisers for asthma treatment

As a result of an investigation in North East London, London's Asthma Leadership Group (LALIG) for Children and Young People is calling for additional vigilance around the use of home nebulisers for the treatment of Asthma, that have been either been purchased independently or prescribed without consultation with a senior respiratory or paediatric clinician. The LALIG has advised that the use of home nebulisers can increase the risk of delayed presentation in the event of an asthma attack and that where a nebuliser is not connected to an oxygen supply can also result in hypoxia if used during an attack. Home nebulisers should only be prescribed by a specialist and under no circumstances should primary care continue to prescribe nebulisers, even if the treatment was initiated in tertiary care. GPs and practice nurses are advised that during asthma reviews it is wholly appropriate to ask if a household has and is / could be using a home nebuliser to support a child's asthma management without appropriate supervision or direction and to act upon this with immediate action treating this as a Children's safeguarding concern.

Please see a [letter](#) from Oliver Anglin, Chair of LALIG and an Urgent CYP Asthma Update [here](#) for further information.

Serious shortage protocol – Fluoxetine 10mg tablets

Message on behalf of Department of Health and Social Care:

We are writing to inform you that because of ongoing supply issues, the Serious Shortage Protocol currently in effect for fluoxetine 10mg tablets (SSP05) is being varied to extend the end date, which was previously Friday 12 November 2021.

The end date for SSP05 will now be Friday 11 February 2022.

If you have any questions regarding the SSPs please contact the NHS Prescription Service:

Email: nhsbsa.prescriptionservices@nhsbsa.nhs.uk

Telephone: 0300 330 1349

Textphone: 18001 0300 330 1349

To access the latest information about SSPs (including supporting guidance), please visit the following link – <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps>.

BGL pathology transfer: an update

As you will be aware, pathology services across Bexley, Greenwich and Lewisham transferred to the SYNLAB/NHS pathology partnership, which you know as Viapath, on Friday (12 November). There have been a number of challenges during the transfer and we would like to thank all practices for their patience at this time. Please read the update in full [here](#).

Mortality data flows - survey

There is currently a mismatch between the reporting of informal and formal death notifications across primary and secondary care settings. This is partially due to the time scales within which these organisations report deaths informally direct to Patient Demographic Service (PDS) via the Spine, and lack of PDS compliance and access. This has resulted in the need for mandating mortality updates onto the PDS within one working day for which the [Data Provision Notice \(DPN\)](#) was approved and published on 12 October 2021, with **compliance by 10 January 2022**. NHS Digitals Product Implementation and Relationship Management (PIRM) team will be supporting organisations providing SME, business change, training and support where required – in order to do so they require GP practices to **complete a [survey](#) by the close of business 30 November**. This will help them understand current compliance with the DPN, and what assistance may be required to become compliant.

111 referrals standards survey

The [PRSB](#) are working with NHSX, NHS England and NHS Improvement, and [NHS Digital Booking and Referral Team](#) to deliver an Information Standard for 111 referrals to other services. As part of this work, PRSB are carrying out a UK wide consultation via an online survey. The survey takes 5-10 minutes to complete. It includes a two-minute video, which will help explain the reasons for developing an Information Standard for 111 referrals. Please complete the [survey](#) here.

Call for young people with learning disabilities to join focus groups

The Council for Disabled Children and NHSE are recruiting one-off focus groups to seek the views of young people with learning disabilities on annual health checks. More information is available [here](#).

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. Thank you to those staff who have been in contact already – we really appreciate it. However, we really need more examples please.

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

The BestMSK spinal group leaflets

The [BestMSKHealth Clinician Advice leaflet](#) has been designed to support a clinician’s decision to request an MRI scan and the interpretation of an MRI scan report with a patient’s symptoms. [The BestMSKHealth Patient Advice](#) leaflet has been designed to share with patients prior to attending an appointment for an MRI scan and aims to reduce anxiety and misunderstanding.

The Health Innovation Network want to hear from people with high cholesterol

The Health Innovation Network (HIN) is looking for people who have high cholesterol or who have been told that they are at risk of high cholesterol or raised lipids, to help improve the care and services available in south east London. Please see the attached [leaflet](#) for more information. To take part or for more information, contact sophie.mizen@nhs.net at the HIN by 30 November 2021.

Three million Covid-19 vaccinations given in south east London

South east London, home to nearly two million people, has reached the milestone of giving three million vaccinations. As well as being a time to celebrate the incredible work done across all the boroughs, it provides an opportunity to encourage people to come forward when they are called up to have their vaccine doses and booster. Read more [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.

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 \(1 November 2021\)](#)

Online seminars, webinars, and e-Learning

Training nursing associate webinars

SEL and SWL CCGs are running webinars to raise awareness about the TNA role. They are aimed at employers and employees who are considering investing in or becoming a trainee nursing associate. A full list of dates and information on how to join a session is available [here](#).

Resources

Self-care week – 15 to 21 November

Empowering people with the confidence and information to look after themselves when they can, and visit the GP when they need to, gives people greater control of their own health, and encourages healthy behaviours that help prevent ill health in the long-term. For more information about national self-care week and how you can get involved visit www.selfcareforum.org

World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW), 18 - 24 November 2021 and European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD) 18 November 2021

WAAW aims to encourage best practice for using antimicrobials responsibly worldwide, to prevent and control the spread of antibiotic resistance. This year, the focus for WAAW and EAAD will be on health and social care workers, as well as patients who have been prescribed antibiotics.

Medicines teams across SEL CCG have put together a range of resources, including a resource pack to support local antibiotics awareness initiatives, email signatures and a Teams background to use. Dr Aparna Babu GP and Clinical Lead Antimicrobial Stewardship, NHS South East London CCG (Southwark) has also recorded a video message for health professionals. All of these resources are available [here](#).

Recruitment

SE London Training Hubs vacancy

SE London Training Hubs Collaborative are looking for a [Long COVID Clinical Education Champion](#) for one session per week on average, as an interim post for one year. Send your expressions of interest to alisanorthall@nhs.net by 3 December 2021.

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