



Issue 106/Wednesday 3 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

Administration of a booster dose less than six months after the second dose

Booster vaccines are being scheduled at a six-month interval (182 days) from the second primary dose. As advised by the JCVI, this interval will automatically help to prioritise older and more vulnerable patients.

The Green Book has been updated ([COVID-19 Greenbook chapter 14a \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/98424/greenbook-chapter-14a.pdf)) to clarify that for operational reasons administration of Booster doses may be brought forward to a minimum of five months in certain circumstances including:

- attending a care home setting to enable all residents to be vaccinated in the same session
- visiting housebound patients in which it will be beneficial to the eligible individual to receive the vaccine at the same time as other intervention/treatment (for example influenza vaccine)
- where an otherwise eligible individual attends for another intervention (for example influenza vaccine) or who presents for another reason at a vaccination clinic (for example those who present opportunistically and are nearing six months)

For those about to receive immunosuppressive treatment the booster may be brought forward to a minimum of four months (~120 days) to avoid giving the booster when the immune system is less able to respond. Such individuals will need to be scheduled for additional boosting at a later date, currently expected to be around six months after the last dose.

Third doses given to those who were severely immunosuppressed at/around the time of their first or second primary dose do not count as booster doses. These individuals are expected to also require a booster after another six months, but JCVI will review evidence from trials of boosting in this population and issue further advice on the optimal timing for this group.

ACTION NOW REQUIRED

All vaccination sites are now requested to ensure that they have read this update and have taken the following actions:

- Updated all relevant vaccination site procedures and briefed all members of the vaccination team of the operational reasons to administer Booster vaccinations less than six months after the second dose.
- Noted that the Point of Care system will alert users to the existing 182-day guidance however, it will not stop a user from recording a vaccination event before this time.

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.

GP updates

From NHS Digital - Improving Communication of clinical information to GP Practices from NHS 111

What is Post Event Messaging and why are we contacting GP Practices?

The Post Event Messaging (PEM) is the NHS 111 report that is transmitted to GP practices at the end of an NHS 111 call/ encounter. The message currently contains a complete transcript of a 111 call, this can contain a dozen or more pages of the interaction that has taken place between 111 and the patient.

NHS Digital, with your support and engagement, will analyse the 111 reports and improve the clinical information content, and the report format. NHS Digital will also be giving consideration to, how the administration business workflows can be improved to reduce administration time/ burden and improve patient experience.

If you are a GP practice and are keen to be involved in these improvements, then please contact the NHS Digital Team via email PEM@nhs.net and provide the following information:

- Your practice name
- GP IT system in use (whether EMIS Health, TPP or Vision One).
- Your preferred contact details

BGL update – new transfer date and tQuest reconfiguration

A new date to transfer pathology services for primary and community services in Bexley, Greenwich and Lewisham (BGL) to Viapath has been agreed by all the healthcare organisations involved. The transfer will now take place on **Friday, 12 November 2021**.

This follows the decision taken to defer the transfer from its original date of 29 October, so essential final checks could be undertaken.

Additionally, to ensure practices are fully prepared before the transfer happens, all practices have been contacted by email with regard to carrying out a reconfiguration of their current tQuest system to enable them to use the Viapath tQuest system. **This needs to be actioned by this Friday (5 November).**

If you have any queries relating to the transfer or if you have not received a communication regarding tQuest, please email LetsTalk@viapath.org

Data Security and Protection Toolkit –Know your accountable suppliers

The DSPT National Data Guardian (NDG) Standard 10 requires GP practices to demonstrate that they know who their key suppliers are that process personal identifiable information on behalf of the practice. Read in full [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.

Third primary dose of COVID-19 vaccine at GSTT

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) is advising that people with severely weakened immune systems should have a 3rd vaccine dose as part of their primary COVID-19 vaccination schedule. If you have identified patients within your surgery, they can receive their 3rd dose at one of the Vaccination Centres at Guy's and St. Thomas'. Please contact us on CovidVaccineBookings@gstt.nhs.uk with the patient details stating that the patient needs a 3rd dose and we will arrange for the patient to be booked in.

Alternatively, please provide the patient with a letter advising that they are eligible for a 3rd dose and ask them to arrive at one of the Vaccine Pods at Guy's and St Thomas' ([find maps and directions here](#)) with a copy of the letter to receive their 3rd primary dose of the covid-19 vaccine. No prior booking is necessary although they can book using our usual booking system by contacting CovidVaccineBookings@gstt.nhs.uk or calling 0207 188 4040. We will advise them that they need to bring a copy of their letter with them for any booked appointments.

GSTT - Inherited Cardiac Conditions service

The Inherited Cardiac Conditions service is available on e-RS and can be located via Speciality – Cardiology, Clinic Type – Cardiology Genetics.

For all other cardiac conditions (heart failure, chest pain, arrhythmias, heart murmur) → Refer to Alternative Cardiology Services available on e-RS.

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

Free GP virtual events from GSTT

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

The high-risk foot – update for primary care - Learn about diagnosis, patient referrals and the management of diabetic foot and vascular disease. Questions will be taken at the end of the talk.

- **Friday 12 November 2021 - 13:30 to 14.30.** Register [here](#).

Women's health - management of pelvic health. Learn how to improve the patient referrals and the management of pelvic health. Questions will be taken at the end of the talk.

- **Tuesday 16 November 2021 – 13.30 to 14.30.** Register [here](#).

London General Practice Access webinars

New Demand and Capacity webinar series during November – December 2021, delivered by the NHS Time for Care team. More information and how to register can be found on the [Healthy London Partnership website](#).

The recordings for the London General Practice Access Guide webinars can be accessed below:

[Webinar 1: Introduction to the General Practice Access Guide & an effective access system](#)

[Webinar 2: Engaging with patients and communities to develop an access offer that addresses inequalities](#)

[Webinar 3: Achieving team happiness and effectiveness through good access](#)

[Webinar 4: How to make local services work best for your patients](#)

[Webinar 5: The key ingredients for access improvement](#)

If you have any queries, please contact the Transforming Primary Care team at england.londonprimarycaretransformation@nhs.net.

Resources

Lung Cancer Awareness Month

November is Lung Cancer Awareness month. Please share the attached [leaflet](#), [social media graphic](#) and [social media text](#). You can also follow and retweet/share the cancer alliance twitter account https://twitter.com/NHS_SELCA. For further information please contact Joe.Sparks@gstt.nhs.uk or Zara.Gross@gstt.nhs.uk

MedSafetyWeek 1-7 November 2021

The theme for [MedSafetyWeek November 2021](#) is vaccine safety and the MHRA has launched its public health campaign to inform those receiving Covid-19 vaccines about how to report a suspected side effect to the [MHRA Yellow Card scheme](#) on this [Coronavirus Yellow Card reporting website](#). A [Toolkit](#) is available with email signature and suggested social media posts sharing the MHRA's messages using #MedSafetyWeek.

Help Us, Help You campaign

The next phase of this year's 'Help Us, Help You' campaign focuses on the NHS 111 service and aims to encourage people to use NHS 111 online first when they have an urgent but not life-threatening medical need, rather than going straight to A&E/Emergency Departments. Posters and social media materials to download [here](#).

Recruitment

Vacancy for Primary Care Clinical Lead, London Kidney Network

The London Kidney Network is a new collaboration of renal clinical providers, commissioners and patients focused on improving quality, and delivering better outcomes and experience for all kidney patients in the capital. The Network is recruiting Primary Care clinical leaders from each ICS for one session a week to work as part of a dynamic team to lead on transforming CKD care. For more information, please contact Dr Rob Elias, LKN Clinical Lead (robert.elias@nhs.net) or Stephen Cass, Director (stephen.cass3@nhs.net). Closing date 19 November.

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