



Issue 113/Wednesday 22 December 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

Bookings now open for 12-15s to get Second COVID Jab

On 20 December, the [national booking service opened for 12-15-year olds](#) to get their second COVID-19 jab.

All eligible 12-15s can now book their all-important second jab online if they had their first dose more than twelve weeks ago, in line with updated guidance from the JCVI published on 29 November. Please encourage young people and their families to book in for either their first dose if they haven't done so already and second dose as they become eligible online.

Young people can get their vaccine through existing school immunisation services or by booking through the [national booking service](#) to attend a vaccination site outside of school hours.

Deployment of Covid-19 treatments for highest risk non-hospitalised patients

New Covid-19 treatments – neutralising monoclonal antibodies (nMABs) and antiviral treatments - are now available for use for patients at highest risk in the community.

The treatments are being provided by COVID-19 Medicine Delivery Units (CMDU). In south east London, Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust (GSTT) are delivering the CMDU.

Please find attached the full [letter](#) from SEL CCG.

Updated UK Health Security Agency guidance on NHS staff, student and volunteer self-isolation and return to work following COVID-19 contact

Please see letter from 16 December [here](#).

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 can 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 \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/report-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-test-result). 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

Message from the UK Chief Medical Officers

Please read the end of year letter [here](#).

General practice and pharmacy availability over Christmas and New Year

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on 12 December, general practice has been working tirelessly to ensure all patients who are eligible, are offered a COVID booster by 31 December. This means that the majority of practice staff are being redeployed until the New Year to administer Covid booster vaccinations. Surgeries remain open for urgent appointments, but some appointments for routine care may be cancelled over the coming weeks.

[Further detail on this and pharmacy opening times over Christmas and the new year](#)

Withdrawal of the recommendation for consideration of Inhaled Budesonide as a treatment option for COVID-19

The [COVID-19 Therapeutic Alert](#) issued on the 14th of December informs on the withdrawal of inhaled budesonide as a treatment option for COVID-19.

The alert highlights:

- Final results from the [PRINCIPLE](#) and [STOIC](#) trials of inhaled budesonide as a treatment for mild to moderate COVID-19 infection have been published.
- Inhaled budesonide should no longer be considered as a treatment for individuals with COVID-19 infection other than within the context of a clinical trial. The [NICE COVID-19 Rapid Guideline](#) has been updated to reflect this. Prescribers may wish to refer to the guideline for further information.
- Patients prescribed budesonide for indications other than COVID-19 should continue treatment if they test positive.

MHRA Drug Safety Update: Chloral Hydrate, Cloral Betaine Restriction

In October 2021, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) released a drug safety update relating to the licensed paediatric use of chloral hydrate and chloral betaine for insomnia. Due to safety and efficacy concerns, its use has now been restricted to short term treatment with a maximum treatment duration of two weeks. Please see the [link](#) for further information.

Following on from the publication of this alert, the Neonatal & Paediatric Pharmacists Group (NPPG), have also released a position [statement](#) for the off-label use of chloral hydrate in the management of intrusive movement and motor disorders in children and young people.

The key message for Primary care from the MHRA alert and the NPPG statement are:

- **Do not abruptly stop either medication** – as abrupt discontinuation can lead to delirium. If a decision to stop the medication is made by the specialist, then a tapered approach ought to be taken

- Use must be under the supervision of a named consultant with appropriate experience and competency in paediatric neurology, neuro-disability, and/or palliative care, who must regularly review the patient, being alert to signs of inappropriate use and aiming to deescalate wherever possible
- The specialist teams at SEL hospital trusts are aware of the alert and requirements for action. Patients will be being reviewed at their scheduled outpatient appointments and reviews of management plans undertaken as necessary

Actions:

- A prescribing advisor will contact your practice if patients currently prescribed choral hydrate or chloral betaine are identified at your practice. Please ensure there is a management plan in place from the initiating specialist, with clear indication for use.
- If you have any concerns in the interim, please contact the specialist team directly.

MHRA Drug Safety Update: Haloperidol (Haldol) - reminder of risks when used in elderly patients for the acute treatment of delirium

The MHRA issued a safety [update](#) on the 10th of December to remind healthcare professionals of the increased risk of adverse neurological and cardiac effects when using first-generation antipsychotic haloperidol (Haldol®) to treat delirium in elderly patients.

Healthcare professionals are advised that:

- Haloperidol should only be considered for acute treatment of delirium when non-pharmacological interventions have failed, and prescribed the lowest dose, for the shortest possible time.
- Haloperidol is contraindicated in Parkinson's disease, dementia with Lewy bodies and used with caution in frail, elderly patients. Please see the [Summary of Characteristics](#) for further information.
- Baseline ECG and electrolyte monitoring is recommended before and during treatment.
- Dose adjustments are needed in hepatic and renal impairment.
- Monitor for extrapyramidal side effects during treatment. These may include dystonia, tardive dyskinesia, akathisia, hypersalivation.

Serious Shortage Protocol – Salazopyrin® EN-Tabs 500mg

Because of ongoing supply issues, the Serious Shortage Protocol currently in effect for Salazopyrin® EN-Tabs 500mg (SSP014) is being varied to extend the end date, which was previously Monday 20 December 2021.

The end date for SSP014 will now be Friday 14 January 2022.

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

Primary care networks: network contract directed enhanced service from 20 December 2021

[Network Contract Directed Enhanced Service Contract Specification 2021/22](#)

[Investment and Impact Fund Implementation Guidance 2021/22](#)

[NHS England » Network Contract Directed Enhanced Service – Guidance for 2021/22 in England – 2021/22](#)

[NHS England » Cover Notes – Network Contract Directed Enhanced Service](#)

Clinical Effectiveness South-East London's newsletter

An [update](#) from the team and a reminder of how CESEL can help your practice. Details about the programme, including recently published CESEL Guides, is [here](#).

Bexley, Greenwich and Lewisham (BGL) GP Direct Access Pathology Transfer to the South East London Pathology Partnership

As you know the transfer of BGL GP Direct Access pathology services for BGL took place on 12 November 2021. We know that there have been a number of issues and we wanted to reassure you that we have heard the concerns and are working with the contract holder to ensure these are addressed. In the meantime, it is imperative that every issue is raised through the Viapath Customer Services Desk as they will be best placed to resolve issues as they occur. If you are concerned about the issue (once you have logged it with the Viapath Customer Services Desk), you can further escalate this by raising a Quality Alert (QA) with the CCG. We will ensure that the Viapath issues log and our log of QAs is used to identify and address systemic issues as part of the action described above. We also need your help in making sure pathology requests are made through the Viapath tQuest portal as doing so rather than using alternative or manual processes will help de-risk the process. If there are any issues with you using the Viapath tQuest portal please contact the Viapath Customer Services Desk immediately as they are ready to help and support you (0204 513 7300 or customerservices@viapath.org).

Data Security and Protection Toolkit Incident management

There is a legal duty on all organisation processing personal information to report any data security breaches or near misses. All GP practices must have a data security breach reporting process in place and staff must be aware how to report a data breach and who they can turn to for help and advice. Please read the latest [bulletin on incident management](#).

Apollo Programme: co-design opportunity

Guys and St Thomas' Trust and Kings College Hospital Trust will be implementing [Epic Electronic Health Record \(EHR\) system in 2023](#). This will not only have benefits to patients and staff but there will also be benefits to our primary care colleagues.

The Trusts will be introducing a new clinic letter template that aims to streamline and standardise the information primary care colleagues receive from the Trusts. They are looking for a group of GPs representing the boroughs in South East London to provide their thoughts on the template.

This group would be provided with the template letter, a short online survey and in addition be invited to discuss the template at an **optional** online feedback session.

To take part, please review [the attached letter](#) by 31 December on [SurveyMonkey](#). There is a feedback session on 21 January from 1.30- 2.30. Register [here](#).

Covid Virtual Wards Update

Work to resume [Covid Virtual Wards](#) has begun across the system to support with the current wave of demand upon acute services. [Covid Virtual Wards](#) are acute-led pathways that support safe and earlier discharge of coronavirus patients from hospitals.

As before, locally developed approaches will be in place and each acute trust will have re-established their Covid Virtual Ward pathways by early January 2022. These pathways will enable the maximum number of people to be discharged safely and quickly and be supported in their own home.

Eligible patients will be identified and contacted by local Covid Virtual Ward providers and provided any necessary information or monitoring equipment, i.e. pulse oximeter, as required. If you have any questions please contact Thomas Munday at thomas.munday@nhs.net.

Procurement of Community Adult Audiology Service – From April 2022

Expression of interest is being sought from GPs **by Friday 24th December 2021** to review the service specification by close of business on 6 January 2022. More information and contact details are available [here](#).

NHS and voluntary sector organisations work together to bring onward HIV transmission to zero across London by 2030.

NHS England has been working with 22 voluntary organisations and nine NHS trust across London in a bid to reduce further HIV transmission across the city to zero as part of the Fast Track Cities initiative.

Fast Track Cities is a global movement active in 30 major cities across the world to end HIV by 2030, reduce stigma associated with HIV and ensure that HIV positive people are living well. As part of the Fast Track Cities Quality Improvement Collaborative, 12 voluntary sector led projects have received ongoing funding for three years to help the city achieve this goal. Over the past 12 months, these projects have made significant gains in crucial areas, such as HIV awareness and testing, tackling stigma associated with HIV and strengthening clinical engagement and peer support for people with HIV who are either struggling with their clinical care or who are experiencing isolation, loneliness and poor mental health and wellbeing.

You can find out more about the individual projects [here](#).

New Urgent Care Plan for London

On behalf of the pan-London Strategic Commissioning Group (SCG), we are pleased to announce that [Better](#) has been selected as London's development partner to provide the technical infrastructure to co-create urgent care plans across London. Read more [here](#) and FAQ [here](#).

Lessons Learnt from Quality Alerts

The December edition is attached [here](#).

Information from Acute Providers

Kings College Hospital Phlebotomy Outpatients Christmas and New Year opening times

Denmark Hill Adults Service

Normal opening hours (07:30-17:45) except:

- Christmas Eve (7:30-14:00)
- December 25th-28th (CLOSED)
- January 1st-3rd 2022 (CLOSED)

Open as normal from Tuesday 4th January.

Denmark Hill Paediatrics Service

Normal opening hours (07:30-16:30) except:

- Christmas Eve (7:30-14:00)
- December 25th-28th (CLOSED)
- January 1st-3rd 2022 (CLOSED)

Open as normal from Tuesday 4th January.

Tessa Jowell Health Centre Service

Normal opening hours (07:30-15:45) except:

- Christmas Eve (7:30-14:00)
- December 25th-28th (CLOSED)
- January 1st-3rd 2022 (CLOSED)

Open as normal from Tuesday 4th January.

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 \(22 December 2021\)](#)

Resources

Managing COVID-19 at home – social media messaging

With an increase in Londoners testing positive for COVID-19 over the festive period, NHS England and NHS Improvement (London) has developed some messaging and assets that can be used on Twitter and Facebook to signpost people to NHS advice for managing COVID-19 at home. [Download the message and assets now.](#)

Covid vaccination core script 15 December/ 15 minute wait leaflet

Please find attached the latest Covid vaccination [core script](#) from NHS E&I national.

Also, subject to the 15 minute wait after Pfizer jabs being scrapped, [the UKHSA has published a public leaflet](#) about this change.

Resources for people with learning disabilities

[How and Why to get a COVID19 booster](#) -Presentation by Dr Eleanor Powers Health Inequalities Lead, Covid and Flu Vaccination Programmes.

[COVID Booster Easy Read 16.12.21](#) - Letter is for people with a learning disability, autism or both.

Needle phobia guidance

[Guidance](#) from GSST regarding needle phobia useful for CYP and Adults with Learning disability or autism.

NHSE/I guidance

Please find attached [Respiratory Prescribing Top Tips and Sustainability Leaflet](#)

SEL Winter leaflet now available in community languages

The SEL winter vaccination leaflet is now available in the following languages: Bengali, French, Italian, Mandarin (Chinese), Portuguese, Somali, Spanish, Cantonese (Chinese), Urdu, Vietnamese. The following languages will be added in the coming days: Arabic, Farsi Lithuanian, Nepalese, Polish, Punjabi, Romanian, Tamil, Turkish. You can access them here: <https://selondonccg.nhs.uk/what-we-do/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine/public-resources/>

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