



Issue 111/Thursday 9 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

JCVI advice - next steps re. booster vaccination in response to Omicron variant

Please see the [latest JCVI advice](#) from 3 December for the COVID-19 vaccine programme, following the [JCVI guidance](#) on 29 November to expand the booster vaccination and reduce the interval to three months.

The [National Booking Service](#) is now being updated to reflect the three-month booster interval and these changes will be live no later than 13 December. UKHSA will update the Patient Group Directive, National Protocol and Green Book to the same timescale.

COVID-19 and seasonal flu vaccination for pregnant women

All healthcare colleagues are asked to make every contact count this winter with pregnant women – and those planning pregnancy – to advise them of the benefits of COVID-19 and flu vaccination; and to signpost acute physicians to best practice guidance on the management of COVID-19 infection in pregnancy, including medication. Please see [letter](#) from 1 December for all actions/information.

Update to Site Stock Manager tool on Foundry: Ability for sites to report on AstraZeneca 10 dose vaccine stock has now been removed

Please be aware that we have now removed the ability for sites to report on AstraZeneca vaccine 10 dose stocks, when completing their stocktake via the [Site Stock Manager](#).

This amendment has been made as this type of AZ has not been issued by the National Vaccination Programme since March and the last expiry date of any batch of AZ 10 dose was 31 May. Therefore, no site should now be holding any of this AZ 10 dose vaccine.

Sites can still continue to report on AZ 8 dose vaccine via the Site Stock Manager.

Should you need to report any stock or waste relating to AZ 10 dose please contact the Foundry helpdesk by emailing vaccination.operationaldata@nhs.net, who will escalate to the stock team to resolve in the back end of Foundry.

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 \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/report-a-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

Survey for action by 10 December – SEL General Practice Staff Covid Vaccinations

Assessing vaccination rates ahead of Covid vaccination becoming a condition of employment for all NHS staff

Please complete this survey by 10 December – all data collected will be confidential.

The South East London Vaccinations team are collecting this information so that we can better understand the uptake of the Covid vaccination offer amongst all general practice staff working in primary care across the six boroughs. Importantly, we wish to assess the potential risk to the primary care workforce that may affect the operations, services, safety and pressures within our practices if those who remain unvaccinated after the Government's mandate of vaccination as a condition of employment comes into force from 1st April 2022. Complete the survey [here](#).

Becton Dickinson blood specimen collection

The [NHSE/I letter](#) of 29 November provides an update on the supply disruption to Becton Dickinson's blood specimen collection portfolio, highlighting that the supply situation has continued to improve. Best practice guidance will shortly be updated to reflect the current supply position. Organisations can begin the process of returning slowly to business as usual stock levels staggered over a period of six weeks, with situation reporting on stock levels and demand being stood down.

Medicines optimisation

1. Steroid Emergency Card to support early recognition and treatment of adrenal crisis in adults

The [NaPSA](#) has issued an alert promoting a NEW patient held Steroid Emergency Card. It is to be issued to all patients with primary adrenal insufficiency, those who are steroid dependent and those who may develop secondary adrenal insufficiency and become steroid dependent.

[Ardens](#) clinical decision tool available on EMIS have reviewed this alert and have produced the following:

- NPSA steroid alert searches to assist practices with the identification of patients
- Corticosteroid monitoring template
- Printable steroid card titled: "Corticosteroid monitoring (v14.2)(Ardens)"
- NPSA steroid card pop up alert to notify clinicians if an at-risk patient has not had a card issued within the last 3 years

Please see the [link](#) for further information.

Who should be issued with a Steroid Emergency Card?

The Society for Endocrinology and Specialist Pharmacy Services issued [Guidance on issuing the Steroid Emergency Card in adults](#). It has helpful advice on the patient cohorts requiring a Steroid Emergency Card and Sick day rules.

Where to obtain supply

Both the Steroid Treatment Card and the Emergency Steroid Card can be ordered from the usual suppliers:

- NHS Business Services Authority - [NHS Forms](#)
- Primary Care Support England - [PCSE online](#)

The [Steroid Emergency card PDF](#) is also available online, which can be uploaded onto a mobile phone which can be shown in medical emergencies.

Action: Prescribers should issue a steroid emergency card to eligible patients and discuss its purpose. They should also ensure information on the card is up to date. Pharmacies should source and supply steroid emergency cards to replace those lost by patients.

2. South East London Integrated Medicines Optimisation Committee (SEL IMOC):

Please see the ratified decisions from the SEL IMOC below for information.

NEW

- Guidance on the frequency of [self-monitoring of blood glucose \(SMBG\)](#) in adults and young people with diabetes.
- Guidance on [the use of nebulised antibiotics](#) in the management of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* infection in Non-Cystic Fibrosis Bronchiectasis has been developed.
- **Dequalinium** - has been included in the [SEL Joint Medicines Formulary](#) for the management bacterial vaginosis. It is categorised as '**Green**', however it is restricted to a 2nd line use.
- **Botulinum toxin** - has been included in the [SEL Joint Medicines Formulary](#) and is categorised as a '**Red**' medicine. Therefore prescribing is restricted to the hospital setting, for the localised treatment of focal neuropathic pain and intraprocedural use in hand surgery during surgical neurolysis in adults and. Botulinum toxin is the last line option in these settings as outlined in the [Formulary recommendation 128](#) and [Formulary recommendation 129](#) respectively.
- Remsima - The sub-cutaneous (s/c) formulation of infliximab (Remsima TM) has been added to the [SEL Joint Medicines Formulary](#) for use in inflammatory bowel disease and is categorised as a '**Red**' medicine (hospital only).

UPDATED

- The [SEL Lipid Management Pathway](#) been updated to incorporate the use of inclisiran following the [NICE TA](#). [SEL Joint Medicines Formulary](#) has been updated to include inclisiran as **Amber 1**. An [inclisiran initiation checklist](#) has also been created to help support clinicians on the suitability of this medication.
- **Lurasidone** - has been reclassified to **Amber 2** in the [SEL Joint Medicines Formulary](#) for the treatment of schizophrenia in adults. Lurasidone is a 3rd line antipsychotic and may be considered 1st line in patients with prolonged QTc. For further information, please refer to [Formulary recommendation 025](#).
- **Safinamide** - has been reclassified as **Amber 2** in the [SEL Joint Medicines Formulary](#) for the treatment of Parkinson's disease (PD) in adults. Please see [Formulary recommendation 116](#) for further information.
- Following the retirement of the adult Red, Amber and Grey list document in July 2021, the [Red, Amber, Green, Grey \(RAGG\) medicines list background information](#) has been updated and a [list of medicines falling under NHS England and improvement \(NHSE/I\) specialised commissioning](#), not on the local formulary has been retained. Information regarding the RAGG category for medicines can be found on the [SEL Joint Medicines Formulary website](#).
- The review dates for the [shared care guideline for apomorphine in Parkinson's disease](#) and the [cow's milk protein allergy guideline](#) have been extended to October 2022.

3. NEW Rapid Access clinic for non IGE Cow's milk allergy – referrals now open for SE London

Specialist Paediatric dietitians have set up a new service to help with the diagnosis and management of infants with non IGE cow's milk allergy. The dietitians will offer a telephone consultation with parents/carers and will guide them through the correct diagnosis and management of non IGE cow's milk allergy, including the process for re-introduction of cow milk. The service will standardise care across SE London, with the aim to reduce over diagnosis and improve infants care for non IGE cow's milk allergy.

- Please ensure all other childhood conditions such as eczema, colic, constipation and reflux are ruled out before referring
- This service is NOT for suspected IgE-mediate CMA, severe non-IgE CMA e.g. EoE, FPIES, or multiple food allergies please refer to local allergy clinic
- If growth faltering and/or older than 12 months please refer to local dietetic team.

Please send referrals via e-RS. Our service is listed under Speciality: Dietetics, Clinic Type: Food Allergy and Intolerance.

The referral form titled 'SEL Non-IgE Cow's Milk Allergy (CMA) Rapid Access Clinic (RAC) Referral Form' can be found on EMIS or DXS.

For further information email gst-tr.prescribingsupportdietitians@nhs.net

Supply issues with Sulfasalazine (Salazopyrin En-Tabs®) 500mg tablets and Diamorphine 5mg powder for solution for injection ampoules

Please find attached Medicine Supply Notifications for:

[A Tier 1 medicine supply notification for Sulfasalazine \(Salazopyrin En-Tabs®\) 500mg tablets.](#)

[A Tier 2 medicine supply notification for Diamorphine 5mg powder for solution for injection ampoules.](#)

Medicine	Out of stock	Alternatives
Sulfasalazine (Salazopyrin En-Tabs®) 500mg tablets	Until w/c 20 December 2021.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Generic versions of sulfasalazine 500mg gastro-resistant tablets remain available.• A Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) was issued on 26/11/2021.
Diamorphine 5mg powder for solution for injection ampoules	Until early January 2022.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clinicians in both primary and secondary care are reminded of the permanent actions recommended in the Supply Disruption Alert for diamorphine ampoules issued in March 2020.

DHSC and NHSE/I have now launched an online [Medicines Supply Tool](#), which provides up to date information about medicine supply issues. The contents of these MSNs can now be viewed on the Tool. To access the Tool you will be required to register with the [SPS website](#). There have also been changes to the resupply dates of the medicines listed below. These communications were previously circulated via the NHSE&I commissioning routes.

Original MSN/SDA reference	Date of original MSN/SDA	Supply issue	Resupply date originally communicated	Updated resupply date as of w/c 29 th November 2021
MSN/2021/034	12/07/2021	Gentamicin 0.3% w/v and Hydrocortisone acetate 1% w/v (Gentisone HC) Ear Drops	w/c 25 October 2021	06/01/2022

Please be aware this communication is also being circulated separately to all community pharmacies in England.

Please note that for supply issues that have been categorised as tier 1 or 2, DHSC and the MSRG have requested that the NHSE&I commissioning routes are used to reach community pharmacy and GP practices. More serious supply issues are communicated via the Central Alerting System for action.

If you have any queries please contact: DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk

For action by 13 December - November flu ImmForm submission

ImmForm November submission has opened for uploading Flu and Covid for the reporting month of November. Please upload staff flu vaccinations by Monday 13th December.

Procurement of a care planning application for London

Following the procurement process which took place from July to September 2021, a new supplier has been recommended to provide a care planning application for London. The new application will replace the current application and service provided by Coordinate My Care, for which the contract expires on 31st March 2022.

We appreciate that there have been delays to the announcement of the recommended provider. The contract and a detailed implementation plan for transition from CMC to the new solution is currently being finalised. As soon as this is complete, an announcement of the new provider will be communicated to all stakeholders. This will be supplemented by an FAQs document and implementation roadmap.

Despite the delay in sharing this information, the designing, building, testing and implementation of the new care planning application is progressing at a considerable pace.

We apologise for any concern that this may have caused, and we thank you for your understanding and patience while the contract is finalised.

GP teams should continue to work with patients to put in place and monitor CMC care plans regardless of these changes. All CMC plans will be migrated over to the new advanced care planning tool and will therefore be available following the transfer.

If you would like to receive updates relating to the programme, please email: ucp.programme@swlondon.nhs.uk.

Annual health checks for people with learning disabilities

South East London CCG have confirmed with NHS England and Improvement which staff can support the completion of annual health checks for people with learning disabilities:

The DES Directions stipulate that AHCs should be offered by PMS or GMS contractors and the contractor must offer an AHC to each patient on its GP Learning Disability Register. It also requires the contractor to arrange a training session for its staff to include lead GP, lead practice nurse, practice manager or senior receptionist.

AHCs can be carried out by a GP or a healthcare professional who is a member of a profession regulated by the Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care - this includes the GMC, Royal Pharmaceutical Society (later General Pharmaceutical Council), Nursing and Midwifery Council and the Council of Professions Supplementary to Medicines amongst others. The AHC can be undertaken by one of these professionals provided that the relevant contractor complies with DES Directions as mentioned above.

There are 4 sections involved in an annual health check: Section 1 and 2 can also be done by a non-medical prescriber. The non-medical prescriber must refer the patient to a GP colleague if there is any concern or red flags identified. Section 3 and 4 involves physical health examinations and can be completed by a properly trained healthcare professional as stipulated above, however the final AHC needs to be signed off by a GP.

Please contact Selccg.ldapmoteam@nhs.net if you have any queries.

For information - Hints and Tips re 2WW

Please see attached [hints and tips](#) for 2WW referrals via NHS e-Referral service

Celebrating one year of the COVID-19 vaccination programme

As we all continue to work together to slow the spread of COVID-19 and the new Omicron variant, we are also looking back and celebrating the achievements of the past year as we marked the anniversary of our first COVID-19 vaccination, given on 8 December 2020.

Together with our partners in south east London, we have:

- delivered 3,145,000 total vaccinations
- fully vaccinated over 1,300,000 people
- delivered an additional booster vaccination to almost 400,000 people
- stood up vaccination services at 84 separate sites across our six boroughs.

None of this would have been possible without the NHS working in partnership with other organisations locally, including local authorities, and without the extraordinary efforts of our staff and volunteers. Thank you for all you have done, and continue to do, to make this vital work possible. Read the full story and watch a short film [here](#), and find out about some of the people involved in the programme [here](#).

Information from Acute Providers

Help us keep hospital patients safe

Our local hospitals are finding that a number of patients and visitors are unaware of important measures that are in place to keep patients, visitors, and NHS staff safe from Covid.

We would be grateful if you could help by advising anyone requiring acute care to wear a face covering when they come to hospital for treatment (unless they are clinically

exempt). Please also advise them that local hospitals have visiting guidelines for patients, families, and friends to prevent overcrowding.

Full details of these guidelines can be found on the hospitals' websites: [King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust](#); [Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust](#); [Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust](#); [South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust](#); [Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust](#).

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

Kooth and Qwell webinar for GPs, nurses, and health professionals

Kooth and Qwell is a web-based service which provides a safe and secure means of accessing mental health and wellbeing support for young people and adults. Join this webinar aimed at GPs and other healthcare professionals to learn more about the services offered.

- Thursday 13 January 2022 - 12.00 to 13.00.

Register for a place [here](#)

London CARE Wellbeing Course – for all primary care staff

The London CARE Wellbeing Course provides 6 x 30min weekly sessions to concentrate on self-care and our own wellbeing and resilience. Easy relaxation skills are built on week by week so that you become comfortable with the format.

- One-off Seasonal Session - Tuesday 21 December, 13:00 - 13:30
- Session 1 - Thursday 13 January, 13:00 - 13:30
- Session 2 - Thursday 20 January, 13:00 - 13:30
- Session 3 - Thursday 27 January, 13:00 - 13:30
- Session 4 - Thursday 03 February, 13:00 - 13:30
- Session 5 - Thursday 10 February, 13:00 - 13:30
- Session 6 - Thursday 17 February, 13:00 - 13:30

To register for the one-off or those starting in January, please email care@napc.co.uk

Disability Advice Service Lambeth webinar

Open to people who have experience of using health and care services and health and care professionals interested in coproduction and personalised care. It will provide a good opportunity to find out more information about:

- DASL's South East London Co-production Network
- Opportunities to get involved in influencing health and care services
- [Peer Leadership Development Programme](#)

Thursday 16 December – 13.00 to 14.00.

A [flyer](#) is attached with further information about the webinar.

Sign up [here](#) or mail roxane.lavanchy@disabilitylambeth.org.uk for further information.

Virtual General Paediatrics GP Conference

Organised by Dr Diana Stan, Paediatric Consultant, King's College Hospital and Dr Lillie Wylde, FY1 doctor, Croydon University Hospital.

Tuesday 14 December 09.00 – 13.00. Book your place [here](#).

Resources

Primary care Severe Mental Illness physical health checks learning catalogue

Health Education England and NHSE/I have developed a [catalogue of learning resources](#) to support primary care professionals to deliver annual checks for people with severe mental illness (SMI) as set out in the NHS Long Term Plan.

These learning resources include a free 15-minute e-learning module that explores the morbidity and mortality issues associated with SMI, and highlight physical health checks good practice.

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