



Issue 119/Wednesday 02 February 2022

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

Update on vaccination as a condition of employment

[Update on vaccination as a condition of deployment \(VCOD\) for all healthcare workers](#) following the Government's reconsideration of proposed legislation.

Next steps for general practice following the accelerated COVID-19 vaccination booster campaign

Letter from 27 January 2022 [here](#).

Actions to maximise access to vaccination in pregnancy

[Letter](#) from 25 January 2022 asking maternity service leads to co-ordinate with Vaccination Programme leads so that every woman attending a maternity service has easy, timely access to vaccine confidence conversations and co-located vaccination offers.

Operational guidance on vaccinating 5-11-year olds in a risk group or household contact of someone who is immunosuppressed

This [operational guidance](#) outlines actions required to operationalise the vaccination offer to children aged 5-11 years old who are in a risk group or are household contacts of someone who is immunosuppressed.

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

GP Updates

Your chance to inform staff training in general practice

NHSE/I and Health Education England are examining the training needs of general practice staff to support working with remote triage, (navigating patients to the right person at the right time), online, telephone and video consultations. They would like to hear from any member of staff working in general practice on what types of training would help you work with these tools more confidently. Your input will be crucial in designing effective training for staff. Please complete [this survey](#) to tell us about your experiences and views.

Medication Update

Insulin lispro Sanofi®

In November 2021 Sanofi confirmed the name change for their product; Insulin lispro Sanofi® (insulin lispro U100) to Admelog®. This change has been implemented in response to physician feedback across the UK. Please see the [communication](#) from Sanofi for further information.

Information for Healthcare professionals:

- Supply of Insulin Lispro Sanofi® will cease from the end of January 2022. Only Admelog® will be available for supply from February 2022.
- The preparation of Admelog® remains the same, therefore existing stock of Insulin lispro Sanofi® does not need to be discarded.

Actions:

- Practices are asked to review prescriptions of Insulin Lispro Sanofi® and change to Admelog® in line with the manufacture's guidance. Practices may wish to use the following [EMIS search](#) for identification of patients.
- Practices are asked to ensure all members of the clinical team are aware of the name change so patients can be supported appropriately. An OptimiseRx message has also been generated to support clinicians further.

Viridal Duo® (Alprostadil) discontinuation:

In November 2021, Advanz Pharma confirmed the discontinuation of Viridal Duo® (alprostadil). Viridal Duo continuation packs will no longer be available from the 31st January 2022. Please see the [communication](#) from the manufacturer for further information.

Actions:

- Clinicians are advised to review prescriptions for Viridal Duo® Powder. Practices may wish to use the [EMIS search](#) to identify patients currently prescribed this medication.
- To prescribe Viridal products going forward, please provide repeat prescriptions of the 'Starter Pack' only which contains a reusable injector.
- An OptimiseRx message will be added to support clinicians with this change.

Dulaglutide (Trulicity®)

Lilly (the manufacturers of dulaglutide (Trulicity®) have advised that there are currently shortages of the 3.0 mg weekly and 4.5 mg weekly preparations. The shortages are anticipated to be short term, with wholesalers and pharmacies expected to be replenished in April 2022.

Trulicity® 0.75 mg and 1.5 mg doses and other Lilly diabetes medicines are **not** impacted by this disruption.

The current 2-3 month shortage is due to higher than expected demand and not as a result of any quality or regulatory issues.

Recommendations for patients who are currently prescribed Trulicity 3.0mg weekly and 4.5mg weekly injections:

- Please identify patients and contact the initiating team for advice. Do not prescribe multiples of the lower Trulicity doses e.g. do not prescribe two 1.5mg weekly injections to make up a 3mg weekly dose. This route of administration is outside of the license and would double the cost of therapy
- Potential alternatives may include:
 - Temporarily reverting to a lower dose of Trulicity® 1.5 mg weekly, with appropriate glycaemic monitoring. Please consider that additional medication or changes to current medication may be required to maintain glycaemic control
 - Switching patients to an alternative GLP-1 Receptor Agonist

In case of any queries, Lilly's Medical Information Team can be contacted on 01256 315000 or medinfo_ukhub@lilly.com.

FOR INFO: Section 7a Vacs and Imms Incident Form

Due to a technical issue, the original link to report vaccine incidents is no longer working. Please find below the new link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=kp4VA8ZyI0umSq9Q55CtwlS2sc2J5LrOYYrLpNuGZURU9TSVhBNTNVR1daMFIwRzFBMji3NEtFTCQIQCN0PWcu>

Please report any vaccination or vaccine storage incidents to our team as soon as possible.

If you have any queries please contact england.londonimms@nhs.net

New Mindful Mums and Dads programme

From February 2022 onwards the Bromley, Lewisham and Greenwich Mind team will be trialling a new online antenatal and postnatal offer (both in-person and online) and new culturally specific groups for BAME women. For further information, please contact Camilla.Small@BLGMind.org.uk or Karen.Taylor@BLGMind.org.uk.

A detailed programme is available [here](#).

National PPE Acute and Primary Care Customer Insight Newsletter

January 2022 edition of [National PPE Acute and Primary Customer Insight newsletter](#)

MMR uptake communications and marketing campaign

On 1st February 2022 OHID, supported by the UKHSA is launching a new campaign to encourage parents of eligible children aged 1-5 years that haven't had their MMR vaccination to come forward. The campaign will run for six weeks until 14th March 2022.

The objective is to increase the number of people getting children they care for vaccinated from Measles, Mumps and Rubella and boost parents' confidence that getting their children vaccinated is the right thing to do, by dialling up the risk of measles, mumps and rubella.

The attached [campaign summary slides](#) provide a helpful overview of the campaign 'at a glance' which include radio, out of home advertising, PR and partnerships work.

Please contact us if you have any queries at england.londonimms@nhs.net

Keeping Well in South East London launches free full mental health assessments

The [Keeping Well in South East London \(KWSEL\)](#) has launched the offer of free, full mental health assessments for NHS and care staff. The service offers wellbeing and psychological support to all staff offering health and care services across South East London.

On first contact staff will be offered a confidential initial holistic, needs-based assessment which could cover social, mental health, substance use, relationships, family, caring responsibilities, finance and keeping well. If appropriate, this could then transition into a more comprehensive assessment.

A comprehensive mental health assessment will take the form of an initial telephone conversation where a therapist will take callers through any concerns and next steps and any goals. The team will then help those staff using the service navigate all the offers and choose what is best for them, taking into consideration available services and availability.

The service also provides a range of support including through a digital portal, self-help resources, self-assessment, live chat and a community forum.

Consultant Clinical Psychologist and Lead for the Keeping Well in South East London (SEL ICS) Portal Dr Helen Winter said: "The team will help you navigate the system, continuing to support you until you engage in the required intervention/support. We will be able to signpost to self-help resources/events/webinars which you may find helpful whilst waiting. We will also provide follow-up after the staff member has 'landed' in the service, to check whether your needs were met and whether you have any additional difficulties that need to be addressed.

We are working in collaboration with all health and care providers in South East London including occupational health departments, IAPT and in-house psychology and staff support services."

For more information, contact: slm-tr.keepingwell.sel@nhs.net

Information from Acute Providers

Update on the temporary closure of Post Covid Assessment Clinics at GSTT and KCH

Following the easing of pressures caused by the omicron surge, we can now confirm a return to the delivery of assessment services for Long Covid. Post Covid Assessments Clinics at both GSTT and KCH have reopened and are accepting new referrals via eRS.

Please ensure that prior to identifying any patients for assessment in the specialist clinics, all the relevant referral information and investigations (bloods, CXR etc.) are complete to prevent rejected referrals (or missed diagnoses).

Closure of Ophthalmology Service at Lewisham

Please note that the Ophthalmology Service and University Hospital Lewisham will be closed from the 1st April 2022. You will no longer be able to refer to this service via eRS. Patients will be redirected to Denmark Hill.

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 \(19 January 2022\)](#)

Online seminars, webinars and e-learning

IPC Webinars and Drop-in Sessions for GP Practices in February and March 2022

Webinar sessions to provide IPC training, advice, and support to all staff working in GP surgeries and healthcare centres.

GP IPC Training

- Wednesday 9 February 2022 at 13:00
- Wednesday 23 February 2022 at 13:00
- Wednesday 9 March 2022 at 13:00
- Wednesday 23 March 2022 at 13:00

Join via [Eventbrite](#).

A weekly virtual drop-in clinic for IPC advice.

- Wednesday, 16 February 2022 at 13:00
- Wednesday 2 March 2022 at 13:00
- Wednesday 16 March 2022 at 13:00

Join via [Eventbrite](#).

NHS Leadership Academy- Managing issues around staff vaccination

The NHS Leadership Academy is offering all managers involved in this exercise the opportunity to access facilitated sessions throughout the months of February to May 2022. Find out more [here](#).

Register to join one of these Management Support Groups by emailing mark.cole@leadershipacademy.nhs.uk or register your interest via the [LLA website](#).

COVID-19 vaccine equalities webinar series

NHS staff and colleagues from other sectors involved in NHS COVID-19 vaccination delivery can now book for these webinars, which will share insights to help teams to

increase confidence and improve uptake among priority groups and underserved communities:

Thursday 3 February - 13.30 to 15.00. [Bridging the uptake gap in areas of multiple deprivations](#)

Thursday 17 February - 13.30 to 15.00. [Ensuring vaccinations are accessible to paid and unpaid carers and people with long term conditions](#)

GP Pensions ahead of the PCSE Deadline

Thursday 3 February 2022 – 12.30 to 13.30.

Covering: NHS Pensions, outlining the existing schemes, the upcoming changes as a result of the Age Discrimination Case and the importance of the PCSE deadline of 11 February 2022 for submission of Compensation Form.

Book online. For further information email: lead@lmc.org.uk

Health Innovation Network interactive webinar - Modernising Primary Care Telephony

Wednesday 2nd March - 12.30 to 14.00

This webinar, presented by the HIN in collaboration with the NHS England Digital First Programme London, will look at how updating traditional telephone systems can improve interactions with patients and support PCN development, flexible and remote working and help streamline service delivery.

This event will update primary care staff about emerging national plans around primary care telephony and build on previous work undertaken in this area through the Digital First Programme and learning from ongoing projects. It will also showcase several products on the market, helping primary care staff understand the breadth and depth of functionality that can transform primary care processes.

To attend register your interest on [Eventbrite](#) using password: **modernTelephony**

For more details please contact iana.abou-rafeh@nhs.net

Resources

Don't Miss Your Vaccine Maternity Booklets

Our Healthier South East London and communications agency Lynn PR have been working together on the **#DontMissYourVaccine** campaign to encourage pregnant women to access the COVID-19 and Flu vaccines.

We have produced a pair of booklets containing the latest information and guidelines on vaccination in pregnancy: a patient-facing booklet which can be shared with pregnant patients, or patients wanting to have a baby/trying to conceive; and a practitioner's booklet to further support practitioners regularly working with pregnant women.

Every GP practice in south east London is being sent copies of the booklets which are expected to arrive on the 4th or 5th February - please look out for this resource which is being sent to you free of charge via post.

[A digital version of the patient booklet can be downloaded here](#)

[A digital version of the practitioner booklet is also available here](#)

[The patient booklet is also available in translated versions here](#)

And further information advice and support for pregnant women on the COVID-19 and Flu vaccines can also be found on the campaign microsite at www.nhsselvax.com/im-pregnant

Leaflet for community patients on COVID-19 testing and isolation

This [leaflet](#) summarises the latest requirements regarding PCR testing and self-isolation.

Vaccine in pregnancy resources

- [UKHSA leaflet](#) for all women of childbearing age, pregnant or breastfeeding
- Royal College of Gynaecologists (RCOG)/Royal College of Midwives (RCM) information [leaflet and decision aid](#)
- RCOG [website](#)
- NHS COVID-19 & pregnancy [toolkit](#)
- FutureNHS Vaccine Equalities [Area for Pregnancy & Fertility Vaccination](#) uptake
- [Case studies](#) about vaccine uptake in pregnancy
- British Journal of Midwifery [article](#)
- Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) Vaccines in pregnancy [screencast](#)

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