



**Issue 122/Wednesday 23 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.

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## **Updated JCVI guidance for vaccinating healthy 5 – 11s-year-olds.**

The government has accepted updated advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) on the vaccination of non at risk 5 to 11-year-olds. Please read the letter in full [here](#).

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## **Coronavirus Act – Death certification and cremation forms after the Coronavirus Act expires**

The Coronavirus Act 2020, which introduced easements to death certification processes and cremation forms, expires at midnight on **24 March 2022**. Some changes have been retained on a permanent basis through other measures, and other processes revert to previous practice.

The following provisions are **continuing** after 24 March 2022:

- The period before death within which a doctor completing a Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD) must have seen a deceased patient will remain 28 days (prior to the coronavirus pandemic, the limit was 14 days).
- It will still be acceptable for medical practitioners to send MCCDs to registrars electronically.
- The government's intention is that the form Cremation 5 will not be re-introduced after the Coronavirus Act expires.

The following emergency provisions are **changing** with the expiry of the Act:

- The provision temporarily allowing any medical practitioner to complete the MCCD, introduced as a temporary measure by the Coronavirus Act, will be discontinued.
- Informants will have to register deaths in person, not remotely.

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## COVID-19 testing and reporting

On Monday 21 February, the Government published their Living with COVID plan, which you can read [here](#). We await further guidance.

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](mailto: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](mailto:avril.satchwell@nhs.net) Head of SEL CCG Covid Testing or the wider SEL Testing Team at [selccg.covidtesting@nhs.net](mailto:selccg.covidtesting@nhs.net)

## GP Updates

### Delivery plan for tackling the COVID-19 backlog of elective care

Read the NHSE/I [letter](#) from 8 February in full.

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## Flu Vaccine Underwriting

In December 2021 the CCG committed to meeting the cost of any unused flu vaccines that practices had over and above the 10% (or agreed number) that had been agreed could be returned by suppliers.

To ensure the most cost effective and time efficient process is put in place we would ask practices to raise an invoice for this reimbursement detailing:

- Practice name and contact details
- The type of vaccine
- The number returned to the supplier
- The number remaining that require payment by the CCG
- The financial value of the vaccine being claimed
- A copy of the invoice from the supplier

The practice invoice and a copy of the supplier invoice should be sent through to (*local borough email address*) by 18 March 2022

On receipt of the invoice the practices will be reimbursed and will need to dispose of the vaccines.

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## National awareness sessions: Patient Record Access - getting ready for patients to have access to their future data

From April 2022, patients with online accounts such as through the NHS App will be able to read new entries in their health record. This applies to patients whose practices use the TPP and EMIS systems. Arrangements with practices which use Vision as the clinical system are under discussion. This is an NHS England and NHS Improvement programme supported by NHS Digital. The change supports the NHS Long-Term Plan commitments to provide patients with digital access to their health records. This means GPs and practice staff will need to consider the impact of each entry, including documents and test results, as they add them to a patient's record. Patients will not see personal information – such as positive test results – until they have been checked and filed, giving GPs the chance to contact and speak to patients first.

**Awareness sessions** are being run to explain what this means for you and what you need to do next, join up for an event [here](#).

Further information is also available here: [Access to patient records through the NHS App - NHS Digital](#)

[Giving patients online access to their medical records: guidance for GP practices - NHS Digital](#)

If you have any queries please contact the Implementation Team [England.NHSXImplementation@nhs.net](mailto:England.NHSXImplementation@nhs.net).

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## Quality Outcomes Framework year end checklist

In preparation for the year-end data extract for Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) practices are required to carry out applicable actions in the QOF 21/22 year-end checklist **by 30 March 2022**. The actions can be found by visiting this site <https://welcome.cqrs.nhs.uk/service-information/quality-outcomes-framework-qof/> then the Quality Outcomes Framework (QOF) Year End Checklist.

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## Medications update

### MHRA Drug safety alert: COVID-19 antivirals and pregnancy

The [UK COVID-19 Antivirals Pregnancy Registry](#) aims to collect information about exposures to COVID-19 antivirals during or shortly before pregnancy and enable follow-up of any reported pregnancies. Since COVID-19 antivirals are new medications and the safety data in pregnancy is not yet understood.

#### Actions:

- Healthcare professionals (as well as patients and their partners) are asked to report an exposure to a COVID-19 antiviral during pregnancy or around the time of conception, or of partners on a COVID-19 antiviral around the time of conception.
- Since an exposure may occur in very early pregnancy before pregnancy is recognised, healthcare professionals are asked to report cases, even if some time has passed since the end of their COVID-19 antiviral treatment.
- To report an exposed pregnancy, telephone: 0344 892 0909 (available 9:00am to 5:00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding bank holidays). Please see the MHRA [alert](#) for further information.

### COVID-19 vaccine update

Nuvaxovid®, the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Novavax has now been approved. Additional information on Nuvaxovid® can be found in the [summary of product characteristics](#). Dissemination of further guidance regarding this vaccine will be carried out as soon as it is made available.

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## Access to the Paediatric Formulary (Evelina Hospital)

The Paediatric Formulary from the Evelina Hospital is now available online. This can be accessed via the paediatric formulary tab on the South East London Joint Medicines Formulary [website](#). Practices will receive an email communication from their Medicines Optimisation teams, which will provide information on how to login in. Please contact your pharmaceutical adviser if you have any queries.

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## Advice and Guidance survey – tell us your views

Advice and Guidance (A&G) allows a General Practitioner to seek advice and/or guidance from a specialist. In south east London, A&G is currently available via Consultant Connect and the NHS e-Referral Service (e-RS).

As part of the evaluation of these services, feedback is being sought from GPs via this [short survey](#). Your responses are anonymous unless you choose to provide your contact details.

If you have any queries, please contact [Roger.Hendicott@selondonccg.nhs.uk](mailto:Roger.Hendicott@selondonccg.nhs.uk)

Please complete the survey by 25 March 2022.

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## Community Adult Audiology Services - Scrivens Hearing Care and Hearbase Limited

SEL CCG is currently working through a new procurement process to harmonise and secure services for the future of the Community Adult Audiology services provided across SEL. Hearbase Limited and Scrivens Hearing Care have advised that they will cease to provide Community Adult Audiology services across south east London. To ensure a smooth exit for NHS patients and to ensure no new NHS patients are being referred to these providers, SEL CCG will turn off the ability to book appointments by Electronic Referral system (e-Rs) with Hearbase Limited and Scrivens Hearing Care by 24 February 2022. Please read more [here](#).

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## Quality Alerts February 2022

Read the edition of 'You said, We did' [here](#).

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## SEL sustainability survey

SEL CCG have developed a survey in order to get a better understanding of any sustainability initiatives that are already being undertaken by GP practices. Please complete the [survey](#) and send it back to [england.selprimarycarequeries@nhs.net](mailto:england.selprimarycarequeries@nhs.net) by 28 February 2022.

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## Join Greener Practice South London.

Greener Practice South London are a group of healthcare professionals working across South London who aim to support primary care to take practical action towards greener practice and raise awareness of the health benefits of climate action. To join, please complete this short [google form](#) or email [greenerpracticesouthlondon@gmail.com](mailto:greenerpracticesouthlondon@gmail.com). Read more [here](#).

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## Working with people and communities: developing our engagement strategy project brief and invitation to quote

SEL ICS is developing its approach to working with people and communities in south east London. To inform this work we are inviting local small and medium-sized enterprises, voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations to provide a proposal and quote to deliver targeted community engagement with specific [communities](#). Please share this with any groups or organisations working with these communities who you think may be interested. The closing date for receipt of bids is 5pm on Thursday 10 March. Read more [here](#).

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## Pledge from the Caribbean African Health Network to help to protect themselves and their communities from COVID-19.

If you would like to add your support to the pledge, you can do so [here](#).

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## IT systems and registration authority access audits (DSPT 4.2.4)

A reminder to GP practices and staff to ensure that any changes to staff roles or when staff leave an organisation that access to the Care Identity Service (Smartcards) and other clinical IT systems are updated or access revoked.

Please ensure that all GP practice IT systems are considered, including NHS Mail accounts, SharePoint, (where applicable) distribution lists and that IT and GP practices assets are returned. Please advise the NHS SEL CCG IT department when any IT support is required on [ictservicedesk@selondonccg.nhs.uk](mailto:ictservicedesk@selondonccg.nhs.uk).

Maintaining robust access controls to the GP practice IT systems is an important factor to ensure that your patients information remains secure, and it is handled in line with the data protection legal obligations. It is recommended that an audit is completed at least quarterly to check your staff records against the Registration Authority Care Identity System and other IT systems to ensure the controls remain up to date.

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## Viapath - BGL microsite updates and new E-brief

Updates to information on care sets (test groups) and abnormal/critical telephoning limits (haematology) have been published on the pathology transfer microsite for GPs in Bexley, Greenwich and Lewisham (BGL).

The updated information can be found here: [Important Changes - South East London Pathology Services \(synlab.co.uk\)](#)

Additionally, the latest BGL E-brief has been issued this week. You can read this in full, [here](#).

## 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 16 February 2022.](#)

## Information from Acute Providers

### New single point of access and long COVID pathway

GSTT therapy and integrated local services have been working with KCH, SLAM and primary care colleagues in Southwark and Lambeth to design a pathway for patients with long COVID. To ensure we are able to hear and address patients' varied needs and direct them to the most appropriate service we are implementing a single point of access for all Long Covid referrals. This is hosted by GSTT and will be up and running by March.

All referrals will be reviewed to either be assessed over the phone by the GSTT therapies team or seen in a face-to-face MDT assessment clinic at GSTT or KCH. This enables patients who are appropriate to discuss their problems over the phone and, depending on their need, be quickly directed to our Long COVID supported self-management, group therapy or 1-1 therapies.

More complex patients will be seen in face-to-face MDT assessment clinics at GSTT or KCH and reviewed to understand their multi-dimensional needs and provide coordination of specialist support within both hospitals.

Referral enquires (general): [TherapiesReferralManagement@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:TherapiesReferralManagement@gstt.nhs.uk)

Advice contact details / Clinical enquires: [gst-tr.postcovidmdtassessment@nhs.net](mailto:gst-tr.postcovidmdtassessment@nhs.net)

Areas the service covers:

- Telephone MDT assessment: Southwark and Lambeth only
- Face to face MDT assessment clinic: South East London

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## User Survey for Consultant Connect Paediatric Dermatology Service

Please take a couple of minutes to answer the [following seven questions](#) on your experience of using the Consultant Connect Paediatric Dermatology Service. Deadline is 28 February.

## Online seminars, webinars and e-learning

### Additional training webinars for GPs/ primary care on the use of the Rad-G with Temperature paediatric pulse oximeters

Due to demand, Masimo are running additional 30-minute webinars in March to provide training and information about the devices. **Please see the [attached flyer](#) for dates.**

A link is also available to a recording of one of the training sessions at [NHS @home FutureNHS platform](#).

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## Kings Health Partner Events

### General Paediatric GP Conference

Find out more about Paediatrics when Dr Diana Stan, Paediatric Consultant at King's College Hospital chairs the conference on 15 March.

- **Tuesday 15 March, 13.45 to 17.20.** Find more information and register [here](#).

### How to get the best possible postoperative outcomes for your older multimorbid or frail patients?

This webinar will focus on the perioperative medicine for older people undergoing surgery (POPS) service, an award-winning geriatrician led service and the first of its kind in the UK.

- **Wednesday 30 March, 13.00 – 14.00.** For more information and to register via [Eventbrite](#)

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## Data Protection Officer GP Practice Caldicott Guardian training

The Data Protection Officer (Claire Clements) has arranged Caldicott Guardian training sessions (MS Teams) for GP practices as follows:

- **Thursday 24 February – 12.00 to 13.00**
- **Thursday 3 March – 12.00 to 13.00**
- **Thursday 17 March – 12.00 to 13.00**

To attend one of the training sessions, please contact [nelcsu.information-governance@nhs.net](mailto:nelcsu.information-governance@nhs.net) stating details of your practice and the date and time of the session you would like to attend.

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## **Spectrum Festival of Leadership and Learning - Dame Clare Gerada, leadership and mental health advocacy: my journey**

**Dame Clare Gerada, Leadership and Mental Health Advocacy: My Journey** is the sixth in a series of 10 events forming **Spectrum's Festival of Leadership and Learning**.

Dame Clare is a trailblazing London GP who became Chair (and then President) of the RCGP - only the second woman to hold both positions in 50 years. Clare's session will focus on her Journey in Leadership and Mental Health Advocacy.

- **Tuesday 22 March - 17:30 – 18:30.** Join via [Eventbrite](#).

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