



Issue 120/Wednesday 09 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.

Update: Vaccination as a condition of deployment (VCOD) for all healthcare workers letter and FAQ

On 31 January 2022 Secretary of State announced that the Government intends to revoke the regulations requiring vaccination as a condition of deployment for healthcare workers from 1 April 2022. This is subject to Parliamentary process and will require further consultation and a vote to be passed into legislation. Please read the [letter](#) which outlines next steps in full here. An FAQ is [here](#).

Vaccination Condition of Deployment – HR advice line to General Practice

We have arranged for a service to be set up to provide **HR advice** to general practice on the vaccination as a condition of deployment legislation.

VCODSupport@grantmasons.com.

This service will be provided by GrantMasons (also known as Real World HR) **and is an HR advice service not a legal advice service**

Each case will be different but in general the offer would cover:

- a dedicated support email address
- a dedicated phone line for people to ring that will triage to one of the team.
- advice on org /practice wide approach for Lead Partners etc.
- help explore alternatives to dismissal.
- provide remote support for dismissal/appeals meetings if needed (and on site for the more difficult ones if needed but would push remote as it means we can support more people).
- provide assurance scripts for people who want to do meetings by themselves but want to rehearse.
- practically explain the steps they need to go through in line with the guidance.
- describe what the audit trail needs to be.

Here are a couple of sample templates to use if helpful:

- a letter to affected staff which has been drafted by Capsticks [here](#).
- a sample of a communication sent to staff as way of an update to the situation [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 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-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

Message from Viapath/GSTT – Information regarding samples which had not been appropriately stabilised

On Friday 4 February, we wrote to GP practice colleagues to inform you about several samples which had not been appropriately stabilised within the required timeframes. We are now in a position to provide you with an update.

We can confirm that a mix of chemistry and hematology samples were affected, amounting to 285 samples in total. Please note that there were multiple samples for some patients, so this does not represent the total number of patients affected. We detected elevated potassium levels in 46 samples, and a further 239 full blood count samples fell outside of the Mean Cell Volume range we would expect.

The results of all tests have now been returned to GP practices with a comment included on the report for your attention, for example: *'test cancelled - aged sample'* or *'query aged sample, suggest repeat'*. All GP colleagues are asked to review these results and determine whether you feel a follow up test will be necessary based on your understanding of the patient's needs.

We are also conducting our own clinical review of these results based on the information we have available for each patient, although this will be limited as we do not have access to full patient records. If we discover anything to suggest a more urgent concern, one of our clinical scientists will call the GP practice directly.

Our investigation continues and we will share our full findings once concluded. In the meantime, we will continue to provide regular updates on progress as findings become available.

Once again, we apologise sincerely to everyone affected by this issue, and recognise the impact that it will be having on GPs and patients. Please rest assured that we are doing everything possible to understand what happened and why, and that we will put in place measures to minimise the risk of this happening again. Thank you for your patience.

Integrated Care Systems update

In October 2021, London Region made a positive step in establishing their Integrated Care Systems by streamlining the number of service providers delivering services into Primary Care. As a result, a decision was made to start the transfer of services provided by NEL CSU under the direct management of London Region called London Shared Service (LSS) with a view that services would then be disaggregated further into the care of the respective CCGs from 1 April 2022.

Aligning services to CCGs (and thereafter to ICBs), will provide more flexibility and agility in responding to the changing demands on the service. It will provide a platform for integrating the different service delivery partners in each area, enabling better unification and standardisation of service delivery, resulting in a more consistent, high-quality staff/user experience. [Please find more information here.](#)

Learning Disability and Autism Specialist Prescribing Advisers

Ashika Patel and Trang Dinh have recently been appointed as learning disability and autism (LDA) prescribing advisers to join Thomas Lee as part of the South East London LDA team.

Please contact the team at selccg.Ldaprescribingteam@nhs.net if you have any queries relating to complex LDA patients, support on medicine optimisation in LDA and Stopping over medication in people with LD and/or autism (STOMP). For further information about their roles, please see the following [link](#).

Enabling Structured Record Functionality

Further to the information shared in the NHS England Primary Care Bulletin on 9 December 2021, we want to ensure that where possible, all GP practices have enabled the Structured Record functionality within their GP Clinical System.

Currently, this functionality has to be manually enabled for GP practices using EMIS but takes less than a minute to do. It's a possibility that a large number of practices who read the bulletin below have already enabled the functionality, but we want to ensure that if any haven't done so yet, then they have the information and instructions they need. We would be very grateful for your support in ensuring this is completed for the practices in SEL.

We have put together an [FAQ](#). Ideally, we would like all practices to have enabled the functionality as soon as possible. If you have any questions please contact asif.kazi@nhs.net, Implementation Manager (London).

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 9 February 2022](#).

Lymphoedema service at GSTT

This service was recently temporarily paused due to significant staff redeployment to support the NHS during winter. However, the service is now able to recommence on 14 February 2022 and patients will be contacted very shortly to arrange their appointments. If you have been unable to contact the service during this time, or refer a patient, please try again. Please note that as the service restarts waiting/response times may be slightly longer than usual.

For more information see [Lymphoedema | Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust \(guysandstthomas.nhs.uk\)](#)

Phone 20 7188 4749 or email gst-tr.lymphoedemagstt@nhs.net.

Information from Acute Providers

The Ophthalmology service at University Hospital Lewisham will be closed from 1 April 2022

You will no longer be able to refer to this service via eRS. Patients will be redirected to Denmark Hill.

Dermatology and Rheumatology services at Kings College Hospital

Dermatology and Rheumatology have seen a significant increase in the DNA rates for 1st appointments. As first appointments are initiated in Primary Care, these services are heavily reliant on GP's ensuring that patients are issued letters and informed of the date for their appointments.

Due to the recent pandemic, our text reminder service has been switched off and though a new go live date is imminent, it remains inactive.

Please can extra care be taken to ensure that patients are aware they have an upcoming appointment at King's. If there is anything our services can do to facilitate this process, please let us know.

Online seminars, webinars and e-learning

Medicines and Prescribing Network: Tools and techniques to manage polypharmacy during structured medication reviews

This network will bring together health care professionals from across primary, community and secondary care. This session will summarise the relevant aspects of the National Overprescribing report and use a case study to demonstrate techniques and tools to manage polypharmacy. The network aims to provide a space to reflect on best practice and ask questions.

Lelly Oboh -Consultant Pharmacist for Care of older people, will present this webinar

The aims of the session are to:

- Identify and apply various techniques and tools to manage polypharmacy
- Explain the causes and wider factors that contribute to overprescribing
- Identify key actions to take to close any gaps identified in their competency and practice of managing polypharmacy

Tuesday 15 February 2022 – 13.00 to 14.00. [Click here to join the meeting](#) on MS Teams.

Join the sustainability summit

As part of our ongoing work to reduce our carbon footprint and improve environmental sustainability, South East London ICS is running a 'sustainability summit' in partnership with the [Centre for Sustainable Healthcare](#) and representatives from [Greener Practice](#). This an opportunity to hear what is happening in and outside of the ICS, network with other General Practices and other parts of the health and care system wanting to make a change, and to discuss potential priorities for the ICS.

Friday 4 March 2022 - 9.30 to 13.00 at Glaziers Hall, London Bridge.

Places are limited so please contact tara.patel1@nhs.net, confirming your role (GP, Practice Manager etc) and which practice and borough you are in as soon as possible.

Free Gastrointestinal lunchtime seminar

Guy's and St Thomas' would like to invite you to a one-hour interactive seminar with a practical overview of GI cases.

Friday 25 February 2022 – 13.30 to 14.30. [Book here.](#)

Management of sickle cell disease in pregnancy

This primary care and GP focused webinar, led by Professor Eugene Oteng-Ntim, will discuss guidelines for pregnancy care and outcomes, non-invasive prenatal diagnosis and management of patients with HbSC disease.

Wednesday 23 February 2022 – 18.00 to 19.00. [Book here.](#)

NHSE COVID-19 vaccine equalities webinar series

10 March - 13.30 to 15.00. Ensuring vaccinations are accessible to paid and unpaid carers and people with long term conditions [Add webinar to your calendar.](#)

Webinar - Learn more about the formal establishment of the South East London Integrated Care System (ICS) and what this means for local people

These webinars will be an opportunity for residents to learn more about the formal establishment of the ICS. **Please share with your networks.**

The meetings will be taking place virtually on Microsoft Teams on the following dates. Please note, the second event will be a repeat of the first, so you only need to register for one:

- [Tuesday 1 March - 9.30 to 11.30.](#)
- [Wednesday 9 March – 18.00 to 20.00.](#)

Once you have registered for one of these events, the link to the Microsoft Teams meeting will be sent to you the day before the meeting with 'top tips' for using Microsoft Teams.

Resources

New campaign to encourage parents of children 1-5 years to come forward for their MMR vaccination

The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (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 14 March 2022.

[Childhood Vaccination 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.

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