



Issue 129/ Thursday 14 April 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 testing and reporting

Key Messages: Primary Care Focus

["Living with COVID19"](#) Guidance (Letter 30 March 2022) sets out the approach to delivering the UK Health Security Agency's (UKHSA) advice in relation to staff and patient testing. Although the public will not be offered COVID-19 tests routinely if symptomatic, there may be some instances where a clinician will want to offer a COVID-19 test as part of a diagnostic pathway.

All incident/outbreak testing should be using PCRs and advised by a local IPC team or following public health advice.

Patients

Planned elective admissions should be tested using LFDs, in advance of admission with tests via the gov.uk portal where they will be asked to confirm that they have a planned upcoming admission. Day cases who are fully vaccinated do not need to test.

Community or primary care patients requiring a test by a clinician to support clinical decisions during their care and treatment pathway should be offered a lateral flow device (LFD) test as part of their usual diagnostic pathway. Patients should be directed to the gov.uk website to order their tests, where they will be asked to confirm that their clinician has requested this and report via the same portal.

Patients eligible for COVID-19 treatments through a COVID Medicines Delivery Unit (CMDU) (nMAB/Antiviral treatments) will now need to use an LFD Test, which will be supplied to them by UKHSA, for use at home if they have symptoms of COVID-19.

A small proportion of patients testing positive who haven't been automatically contacted by a CMDU for assessment and treatment may need to be referred by GP practices and 111.

You can refer potentially eligible patients if they have tested positive via a PCR test or any LFD test. You can refer patients to the local CMDU using the electronic Referral Service (eRS) or the locally agreed alternative if applicable.

NOTE: One of the treatment options – nirmatrelvir+ritonavir (Paxlovid) – has multiple potential drug interactions so inclusion of the patient's medications in the referral is vital.

Staff

Asymptomatic NHS patient facing staff should continue to test twice weekly, with kits via gov.uk portal. All Symptomatic NHS staff should test themselves using LFDs. Staff who test positive should continue to follow the current return to work guidance – Testing neg x 2 occasions (24 hours apart) post 5 days.

Staff who are household contacts of a positive COVID-19 case and are asymptomatic can return to work but continue to test twice weekly. They will no longer be required to have a PCR test to return to work but should discuss working arrangements with their line manager as it can take up to 10 days for your infection to develop, during which it is possible to pass on COVID-19 to others, even if you have no symptoms.

Staff should undertake COVID-19 tests on an ad hoc basis if instructed by their employer or director of public health in specific circumstances. Staff will be notified via their line management structure if this applies to them.

ASC and Supportive Living and Care Homes:

Most visitors will no longer be required to take a test. Only visitors providing personal care should test before visiting but not more than twice a week. NHS staff in care homes should provide evidence of a negative testing within last 72 hours. Other visiting professionals should be tested with tests provided by the care home if they are providing personal care as per the guidance for visitors providing personal care.

Residents admitted from the community, or another care setting should take a PCR test within 72 hours before they are admitted or an LFD if covid positive within the last 90 days. These tests should be provided by the care home.

The Government will continue to provide free symptomatic testing for individuals who live or work in high-risk closed settings, for example in some NHS, Social Care, care homes, supportive living and Prisons (and other Places of Detention) settings where infection needs to be identified quickly to minimise outbreaks.

Lateral Flow Test Kits for NHS Staff on Vaccination Sites:

Please note that NHS staff should be accessing test kits via the national government website and should be testing and reporting before attending site.

More information on living with Covid-19 can be found on the government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-sets-out-next-steps-for-living-with-covid>

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

Briefing note from UKHSA (6 April 2022) in relation to hepatitis cases in children.

Please see attached [here](#).

Vaccination and Immunisation claim process via CQRS

Please see below documents outlining the CQRS process for the Vaccination and Immunisation claims.

- [CQRS FAQs for Section 7A Public Health Vaccinations & Immunisations](#)
- [CQRS Process for Section 7a Vaccination and Immunisation claims](#)
- [Updated claim form.](#)

Please contact our team directly with any queries: england.londonimms@nhs.net

Paediatric prescribing within South East London

Following a recent medication incident relating to the supply of an unlicensed special in primary care for a paediatric patient, the information below is-being re-shared with all primary care clinicians and community pharmacy colleagues:

South East London Paediatric formulary

The Paediatric Formulary is available for prescribing advice (relating to dose and formulation) for healthcare professionals in South East London. This can be accessed via the app (search 'Paediatric Formulary' or online). Signing in details were circulated by your borough medicines optimisation team. Please liaise with your pharmaceutical adviser if you have difficult logging in.

Contact details of Trust Paediatric Pharmacy Teams during normal working hours between Monday - Friday:

- **Evelina London Children's Pharmacy Team (GSTT)**
T 020 7188 3003
E LetsTalkMedicines@gstt.nhs.uk
- **Kings College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Women's and Children's Pharmacy Team**
T 020 3299 5723 (Denmark Hill) T 01689 864013 (PRUH)
E kch-tr.WomenandChildrenPharmacyTeam@nhs.net
- **Lewisham and Greenwich (Lewisham and Queen Elizabeth) Medicines Information Team**
T 020 8836 4900
E LG.QE-Medinfo@nhs.net
- **Royal Brompton Hospital Paediatric Pharmacy Team**
E rbh-tr.paediatricpharmacy@nhs.net

For urgent out of hours medicines information and stock availability:

Please contact the on call pharmacist via appropriate hospital switchboard (adults and children), if your query is urgent and cannot safely wait until the next working day:

- Guy's and St Thomas': 020 7188 7188
 - King's College Hospital: 020 3299 9000
 - University Hospital Lewisham (LGT): 020 8333 3000
 - Queen Elizabeth Hospital (LGT): 020 8836 6000
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National Patient Safety Alert: Inadvertent oral administration of potassium permanganate

Potassium permanganate ('tablet' form or solution) is routinely used to treat weeping and blistering skin conditions. It is supplied in concentrated forms as a 'tablet' or a solution which requires dilution prior to use as a soak or in the bath. These concentrated forms are highly toxic if ingested and can cause rapid swelling and bleeding of the lips, tongue, gross oropharyngeal oedema, local tissue necrosis, stridor and GI ulceration. Ingestion can be fatal due to GI haemorrhage, acute respiratory distress syndrome and/or multiorgan failure. A recent review of NRLS reports over a 2 year period, has identified that these incidents are still occurring.

Actions for Primary Care:

Ensure procedures/guidelines for use of potassium permanganate align with all BAD recommendations including:

- Patients are not on repeat prescriptions for potassium permanganate
- Prescriptions include clear instructions to dilute before use
- Dispensing label includes the warning 'HARMFUL IF SWALLOWED'
- Prescriptions are only issued by an appropriate prescriber
- If potassium permanganate is to be used in a patient's home, a risk assessment must be done before prescribing
- All patients must be supplied with a patient information leaflet.

Please see the [alert](#) for full information.

Message from Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust - Important changes to prescribing for outpatients

On 25 April 2022 Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust is introducing electronic prescribing in adult outpatient clinics. This follows the success of electronic prescribing in the Trust's inpatient wards and pilots in a few outpatient specialties.

This safer more efficient way of working provides many benefits to patients and prescribers alike including:

- Flags for allergies and drug interactions
- Clear, legible prescribing with prescriber's name clearly visible
- Prescription history is clearly recorded on the electronic patient record in iCare
- No more lost paper prescriptions – the outpatient prescription is sent instantly to the hospital outpatient pharmacy for collection by the patient.

How this affects GP practices

- From Monday 25 April a copy of outpatient prescriptions will arrive in the GP Docman system after being screened by one of our outpatient pharmacies in a similar manner to how inpatient discharge prescriptions do. We plan to switch to electronic prescribing in all specialties over the course of 2022/23.
- A few prescriptions from some specialties will however remain on paper

Note: When the patient does not require an immediate supply of medication, the clinician will complete a paper outpatient referral form and give this to the patient to take to their GP. This workflow remains unchanged and further communications to make this electronic will follow later this year.

[A sample electronic prescription](#) is attached for information. Please share this information with your practice team so that they are familiar with the new system

If you have any queries regarding the new process please contact lg.electronicprescribing@nhs.net

Joint Statement from London Procurement Partnership and London Diabetes Clinical Network on Flash Glucose Monitoring and CGM

Please find attached [a joint statement](#) from the NHS London Procurement Partnership and London Diabetes Clinical Network following the update publications of the NICE guideline on Type 2 diabetes in adults: management, and the NICE guideline on Type 1 diabetes in adults: diagnosis and management, which addresses access to flash glucose monitors and continuous glucose monitors (CGM).

[Overview | Type 2 diabetes in adults: management | Guidance | NICE](#)

[Overview | Type 1 diabetes in adults: diagnosis and management | Guidance | NICE](#)

The guidance recommends that:

- all adults with type 1 diabetes should have access to either Flash or CGM
- all children with type 1 diabetes should have access to CGM
- some people with type 2 diabetes who use insulin intensive therapy (2 or more injections a day) should have access to Flash, for example if they experience recurrent or severe hypos, if they have a disability that means they cannot finger-prick test or if they would otherwise be advised to test 8 or more times a day.

The new guidelines also recommend that the health system addresses the inequalities in Flash and CGM access that already exist. Further implementation advice to help address variability in access and provision to Flash and CGM will be forthcoming in the following weeks.

Process for raising Viapath issues and queries

A reminder about how to raise an issue or query in respect to the provision of your pathology service. Viapath Pathology Support Services are there to handle calls and emails from anyone needing help and are the first place to go to raise any issues or queries. We have also set out the [process](#) for raising a Datix Quality Alert if appropriate.

BGL: Coding update BGL

Viapath has been working hard to resolve issues relating to coding with a focus being given to high volume tests. All translations for core chemistry, core haematology, coagulation, virology, and red cell tests have now been mapped. Immunology has also been mapped. Microbiology translation codes are being worked through with an updated test list for mapping.

SEL offers to support Primary Care Sustainability

- We have published a guide to support [non clinical decarbonisation](#)
- We have purchased 20 places per borough for [sustainability training](#) for GPs
- We have rented an air quality monitor per borough and offered for GPs to host
- We have purchased a number of cycle storage solutions which practices can request [Premium Cyclepods Range Overview | Cyclepods Ltd](#)
- We have partnered with Sustrans to support active travel of General Practice staff – working with one PCN per borough and are asking for expressions of interest. Please see the [attached EOI form](#) for more information.

Express interest for any of the above via sel.netzero@nhs.net

Keeping Well in South East London

[Keeping Well in South East London](#) is a staff wellbeing service for health and social care staff across South East London. Staff can self-refer to the service for an assessment or request a callback if preferred. The website includes a wide range of [self-help resources](#), and information about [work-related support](#). Find out more [here](#).

Reminder - SEL Primary Care resilience survey

As part of our Primary Care programme, we are looking to capture views in a resilience survey, which is open to all Primary Care staff in South East London. The survey is part of a project looking at the impact on general practice associated with the Covid pandemic, and how this could be addressed. It is intended to give an insight into workforce resilience which in turn will help guide future work to try to optimise workforce resilience within SEL. We will share its findings later in the Spring.

Thank you to those who have already taken part. **If you haven't yet responded, we would be very grateful if you could respond by Tuesday 19th April.** The survey is anonymous and should take less than 5 minutes to complete.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/R7HGPZ3>

SEL Quality Alerts and Primary Care Incidents

Please read the latest update [here](#).

Reminder - Easter Bank Holiday Pharmacies Rota 2022

Easter Bank Holiday Pharmacies Rota 2022 Please see a [list of pharmacies](#) opening for the Easter Bank Holiday weekend April 2022. Saturday 16 April is not a Bank Holiday, however there will be some pharmacies who will be closed on this day. Patients can visit NHS.UK or call NHS111 if they wish to check.

Cancer updates

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 March 2022](#).

Seminars, events, webinars and e-learning

UKHSA immunisation update webinars May - July 2022

Please see [attached](#) for webinars between May-July 2022. These are intended for immunisers working within a primary care setting in London.

ECHO Programme - King's College Hospital (Education, Training, Liver Health, Substance Misuse)

Please see [attached](#) for more dates and times for the new ECHO Programme starting on the 17th of May 2022 from 19:00 - 20:00.

This is a clinically-based educational program designed to improve the knowledge on Substance Misuse and associated liver disease to achieve better patient care. Register and find out more [here](#). Find out more about the ECHO Project [here](#).

Improve your sleep quality and daytime energy

One-hour Sleep Sessions for primary care nurses in SE London:

Wednesday 4th May 12.30-13.30 - [register here](#)

Following this session, you can book a 60-90 minute consultation to discuss your sleeping needs.

NHSE webinar – e-Referral system implementation

Monday 25 April, 14.15 – 15.00 via Teams.

This webinar showcases the experiences and practicalities of implementing and iterating eRS from a primary care perspective. Register [here](#).

Elective Transformation and Recovery Programme - Patient initiated follow ups in Primary Care

What Primary Care Needs to Know about PIFU - demystifying the concept will include an overview of PIFU, clinical and patients' perspectives and shared decision making.

Tuesday, 26th April from 12.30 – 13.30 via Teams. [Click here to join the meeting](#)

NMP Update events

[NMP monthly update - May 2022 - Diabetes mellitus, Wednesday 4 May 2022 at 12:30 | Eventbrite](#)

[NMP monthly update - June 2022 - Anti-inflammatories, Thursday 9 Jun 2022 at 12:30 | Eventbrite](#)

Resources

Vaccination Stakeholder Communications Toolkit – High Risk Groups

This toolkit contains information and resources to ensure your networks know how they can get protected against the virus if they are in a higher risk group. The documents can be accessed on FutureNHS [here](#) and also [here](#).

Updated communications toolkit for 5-11 year olds

New graphics included in the 5-11 toolkit and a video with Dr Nikki Kanani here [COVID-19 vaccine - communications toolkit for 5- to 11-year-olds](#) and [here](#).

There was an Instagram Live Q&A session about this cohort with Dr Kumar, posted by the charity Gingerbread, which you can access [here](#). We encourage you to repost.

Updated communications toolkit for 12-15 year olds

New lines have been drafted in this toolkit for uptake amongst 12-15 year olds. You can find the document [attached](#) and [here](#).

Spring booster graphics for hospital settings

Please note our Spring Booster graphics for 75+ can all be found [here](#) and also uploaded [here](#). The latest toolkit with new lines is also attached and can be accessed via the same link.

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