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General practice COVID-19 bulletin



NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight Partnership of Clinical Commissioning Groups
NHS Portsmouth Clinical Commissioning Group
NHS Southampton City Clinical Commissioning Group
NHS West Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group

Tuesday 9 June 2020

Please Note: The bulletin is now sent just twice a week: on Tuesday and Friday

This bulletin brings you the latest NHS advice and guidance on Covid-19, together with responses to questions being asked by practices across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Practice Managers, PCN and Locality Leads: Please share this update with your teams.

If you have any items for consideration, or want to get in touch, please email WHCCG.GPPortal@nhs.net.

Hot Topics

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- Advice on when patients choose to not proceed with medical hospital procedures
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- Guidance on ordering PPE
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Message from Dr Barbara Rushton, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Clinical Primary Care Lead

Dear Colleague

It is now clear that facemasks will need to be worn by staff working in surgeries where they are unable to socially distance. This is addition to wearing PPE where appropriate.

We are working on a process for NHS staff in primary care to have antibody testing to help PHE understand prevalence of Covid 19 in this area. There are consent forms and reagent is becoming available in labs around the country. It will be important to phase the testing over 6 weeks. The behavioural reaction to test results must be taken into account.

Test and Trace has now been in operation for more than a week and the picture of outbreaks in local communities is emerging. Some of these are in families, care

homes and hospitals so that will have consequences for the ability for practices to maintain service delivery. We will need to look at mutual aid for contingency planning.

As more work emerges from PHE around populations most at risk from Covid 19 like BAME, older age, and obesity, it will help in the risk assessment for individuals working in health and care.

Last week Jenny Harries deputy CMO talked about ongoing trials using remdesivir and hydroxychloroquine. She also mentioned that shielding is advised for all of those patients you have identified. However work around test and trace and risk to individual patient cohorts may allow a nuanced approach to retain safety for these patients based on specific evidence. Thank you for continuing to work with the shielded patient group and for reinforcing advice for them to stay safe and socially distanced if they do decide to go for a short walk.

We have been asked to do our best to issue MCCDs on patients as soon as possible after death, so as to allow steady reporting of deaths due to Covid. There will be more information coming into GP patient records from pillar 2 Tipner type testing and as the technology allows there will be a catch up on the backlog. There is no action needed from practices. Testing is now in place for all care home staff and residents over 65 and with dementia.

There is a plethora of guidance on after care for patients following discharge from hospital after Covid. They may have needs such as support from mental health, physio and occupational therapy in the community. We will continue to work with community providers to support you in delivering this aftercare.

Most importantly, as we do more routine work in practices, please note that the cervical screening programme is now operational with letters going out to patients. The initial catch up will be patients with past problem smears.

Patients are still fearful of coming forward with symptoms of suspected cancer so that diagnosis is still very low. Please prioritise this work.

Many thanks

Barbara

HOT TOPICS

The NHS England Primary Care Bulletin published on 9 June ([subscribe here](#)) contains the following:

Face masks and wearing in primary care – more information to come

On Friday 5 June, Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock [announced](#) that from 15 June 2020 all staff in hospitals should wear face masks and all visitors and outpatients should wear face coverings. We are clarifying what changes would be appropriate for staff and patients in primary care settings. We will share further information shortly.

Advice on when patients choose to not proceed with medical hospital procedures

We have received a number of inquiries for GPs about what it means for patient who decide not to proceed with medical hospital procedures during COVID-19 and whether they would be discharged back to general practice. We published [Referral to treatment \(RTT\) measurement and COVID-19](#) on 24 March

What matters to you day

Today marks [What Matters To You Day](#), an opportunity to encourage colleagues to ask this question so people get care and support that's right for them

GP Standard Operating Procedure updated: staff risk assessments

Following feedback from GP practice colleagues and representatives, we have [revised the current GP SOP v3](#) section about staff at increased risk from COVID-19 and risk assessments

Guidance on ordering PPE

All GP practices can register on the new online personal protective equipment (PPE) portal for ordering emergency PPE from a central inventory. This is to supplement (not replace) the wholesale supply route that already operates.

Clinical negligence arrangements

NHS Resolution has published guidance in relation to its [indemnity schemes and claims management](#) during the COVID-19 pandemic. [General practice specific guidance](#) aims to clarify how the management of claims interactions between general practice indemnity beneficiaries and NHS Resolution will proceed during the pandemic.

Cervical screening update

To support GP practices to respond to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the intervals at which invitation and reminder letters are issued for the NHS Cervical Screening Programme were extended. As a result, invitations have been issued 12 weeks (rather than the usual 4 weeks) after Prior Notification Lists were sent to GP practices and reminder letters have been sent 30 weeks after the initial invite, rather than the usual 18 weeks. [Further guidance is available on FutureNHS](#).

GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES

Weekly coronavirus disease surveillance report

The [PHE report is now available](#) – and includes latest on confirmed Covid-19 cases in England. Previous reports can be accessed and [downloaded here from the Gov.Uk website](#).

Covid-19 aftercare guidance

[Guidance](#) has been published to support local primary care and community health services as they work with partners to develop recovery/rehabilitation services for patients after they have been discharged following an acute episode of COVID-19. Please use these resources to help you plan discharge, recovery and rehabilitation services locally.

Visiting healthcare inpatients settings – 5 June update

[Updated guidance now available](#), superseding NHS visitor guidance published on 8 April.

Urgent Dental Care Standard Operating Procedure – June 8 onwards

From 8 June primary care dental services (general dental practices and community dental services) can open to resume face-to-face care (both routine and urgent) for appropriate patient groups. A standard operating procedure is [now available here](#) on the NHS England website.

eRD - Temporary changes for patient consent and AHSN webinars

[A letter is now available](#), notifying of temporary changes to the need for patient consent, and links to guidelines and resources to maximise use of the electronic repeat dispensing system.

To find out more about the recent changes to patient consent for [eRD](#) please join Wessex Academic Health Science Network webinars for tools and support for a successful eRD implementation. [Resources, as well as links to the webinars, can be found here](#).

Join the webinars directly here: [11 June at 11am](#) and [18 June at 11am](#) here is also a [27 May recording](#) of an AHSN webinar available – Primary Care in care homes during Covid-19.

Updated guidance for at-risk patients

Two Guidance and update documents have been published on the NHSE & I website: [Guidance and updates for GPs: Highest clinical risk patients](#) and [Guidance and updates for Trusts: At-risk patients](#)..

NHS Confederation guidance – developing local economic plans

Guidance to help the NHS influence local economic plans is [now available here](#)

Communicating with your patients – a consistent public facing script available now

[Please use this script](#) (updated 4 June) for communicating with your patients. It provides a single, consistent source of information to clearly set out to the public how primary care services are operating. These include not only GP services, but community pharmacy, dental practices and eye care and optician services. It also provides links to further patient facing resources.

FOR INFORMATION

Do not attempt cardio-pulmonary resuscitation orders

[An alert raised on June 3](#) refers to recent instances in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight where Do Not Attempt Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (DNACPR) orders have been applied to groups of people.

As outlined in [a joint statement issued by the RCGP, BMA, CPA, CQC on April 1](#), 'It is unacceptable for advance care plans, with or without DNAR form completion, to be applied to groups of people of any description.'

GP Education Series: supporting those with PTSD symptoms

Mental Health GP Clinical Leads on Hampshire and Isle of Wight's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Recovery Group asked partners to develop a series of webinars to support primary care due to expected increase in people presenting with PTSD symptoms, grief and bereavement and health anxiety as a result of the pandemic.

The first webinar in the series is on PTSD and are [available to view NOW](#).

Live Q&A sessions led by Karl Marlowe Chief Medical Officer and Hazel Nicholls, Consultant Clinical Psychologist & Psychotherapist have been scheduled, to enable colleagues to ask questions and discuss specific advice and guidance scenarios. Local clinicians and GP MH Leads will also be present at the sessions so that they can be

tailored to your local area, but if you cannot attend on the date for your area please do come to one of the other sessions.

- South West Hampshire: 15 June 12:30 –13:00
- South East Hampshire Fareham & Gosport: 16 June 12:30- 13:00
- Southampton: 17 June 12:30-13:00
- North and Mid Hampshire: 18 June 12:30-13:00

To book for one of the Live Q&A sessions email shft.mentalhealthstpadmin@nhs.net. If you have any questions that you would like to ask in the Q&A please send them in the request.

Draft GP Restoration and Recovery Framework

A draft slide of the [South East Restoration and Recovery Framework](#) (pdf format) is now available. This focuses on five strategic objectives: delivering access to safe, high quality and effective services; capturing and building on innovation and transformation; six systems delivering world class, place based health and care; resilient and supported health and care workforce; financially sustainable systems.

Online to recruit GPs event – 9 July

To assist [practices](#) looking to recruit GPs and [GPs looking for new roles](#), Wessex LMCs has created a NEW fully online recruitment event.

This is a two part offer:

- Online digital booklets containing practice adverts across each of the three Wessex regions. This will be sent to all GPs registered for the event, by the **2nd of July** (a week before the live event)
- A live event, with three concurrent webinar streams, hosted on the **9th of July**. These streams focus on the recruitment needs of GPs, GP trainees and GP practices. After the web events, there will be an opportunity for informal practice and GP discussion about the vacancies (private discussions outside the web event).

Survey – innovation in general practice, PCNs and community pharma

New and innovative ways of working have been rapidly developed across the NHS. NHSE/I want to understand the beneficial clinical, operational or system based changes that have arisen as a result of Covid-19.

NHSE/I want to take promising examples of innovation and test them further, to fully understand the benefits. [Please do take part in this survey](#) which will help identify these. NB – you may need to ensure relevant permissions to access this link - closes 25 June).

£6 million funding for charities supporting the health of rough sleepers

Yesterday, the government [confirmed](#) that more than 130 small charities will receive £6

million to consolidate and continue work during the pandemic to support rough sleepers. This has included providing beds for those who need them as well as specialist physical and mental health support.

Revalidation date changes

The General Medical Council (GMC) has [confirmed](#) that doctors' revalidation submission dates have been put back by up to 12 months due to the coronavirus pandemic. It means doctors with a re-validation date between 17 March 2020 and 16 March 2021 can have their re-validation delayed for up to a year.

[Click here to visit the COVID GP Portal](#)

[Click here for Wessex LMC training and events](#)



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