



Important information for GP practices across Kent and Medway
Tuesday 7 July 2020

A new look bulletin

Welcome to the first edition of our new bulletin for GP practices in Kent and Medway. This bulletin will replace the twice-weekly Covid-19 update and contain more information about our restart and transformation work, along with updates specific to ICP areas.

If you have any feedback or ideas to make the updates more useful to you please email kmccg.gpscovid19@nhs.net

Weekly primary care sitrep survey

Thank you for continuing to complete the primary care sitrep survey. The summary of last week's [is available here](#) for your information.

You will notice that the mandatory questions from NHS England regarding workforce have been removed from the survey. An email will be coming out to you shortly to inform you of your current response to these questions and to ask you to update as necessary.

Please make sure that one person from each practice completes the weekly sitrep here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/62MD2B7> by **11am on Thursday 9 July**.

Clinical advice and support

Kent and Medway Care Record

Please [read this update](#) about the Kent and Medway Care Record from Dr Navin Kumta, CCG clinical chair. A [Data Protection Impact Assessment \(DPIA\)](#) is also available for practices.

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Virtual prehabilitation programme for cancer patients

The Kent and Medway Prehabilitation Programme is a trail-blazing programme that aims to improve the health and fitness of cancer patients, through exercise, nutritional advice and psychological support to help people lose weight, improve fitness and feel mentally strong and ready for their treatment.

The programme, which started as a hospital-based pilot, has quickly adapted to the challenge of Covid-19 by offering the same extensive support online.

GPs, cancer care and healthcare professionals can refer patients to this service via the website: www.kentandmedwayprehab.org. Patients can also self-refer via the website.

[Join Scott Elliott, Head of Health and Wellbeing Services at Medway Council on MS Teams](#) on Friday 10 July at 12.30pm to discuss the programme in more detail.

Find out [more and read patient Marjorie's story, here](#).

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Supporting people with learning disabilities

[New guidance](#) has been published by Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust and Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust for care homes and other healthcare professionals to help support someone with a learning disability with suspected or confirmed Covid-19.

Infection prevention and control

Cardinal Type IIR face masks

The MHRA recommends that all lots of Cardinal Type IIR face masks are disposed of locally. There is a risk to staff wearing the mask if the foam strip on the mask flakes and enters their airway or mouth. Further details about this issue are in [this safety alert](#).

Reminder about PPE quality or safety queries

All personal protective equipment (PPE) has to meet UK and European technical and safety standards, and more than 2 billion items of PPE have been issued to health and care services since the start of the pandemic.

Any concerns with a PPE product should be reported through the [MHRA yellow card scheme](#) for medical devices and for other types of PPE where the issues are not resolved locally they should be reported to the HSE through their [Concerns and Advice Team](#).

If the product has come from national stock please also log any issues via [the supply chain form](#).

If an item gives rise to concern please remember to retain the evidence so that any necessary information can be provided to support national decisions around the stock and to support any additional investigations required.

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Electronic Prescription Service (EPS)

Emis practices now have the opportunity to implement the next phase of EPS called **EPS Phase 4** (or **Non-Nominated EPS**). This means that EPS will be available for patients without a nomination in place.

NHS England's [Covid-19 Preparedness Letter](#) for Primary Care (19 March) includes EPS in the set of measures which it expected practices to use to reduce footfall into surgeries and support remote working.

EPS Phase 4 allows prescriptions for patients without an EPS nomination to be signed, sent and processed electronically.

Nearly 50 per cent of eligible practices in Kent & Medway are already live with EPS Phase 4.

We would like to provide the opportunity for the remaining practices to attend a webinar session led by NHS Digital.

The sessions will: Highlight the benefits of switching on EPS phase 4, including how it can best be used in the current pandemic; Guide you through the considerations and potential process changes in practice and; Allow the opportunity for individual questions to be answered.

If you would like to understand more about EPS Phase 4 prior to the session please visit the [NHS Digital website](#).

The webinar will take place on **Wednesday 8 July** at noon until 1pm.

Registration is not required, an email invite will be sent to you providing details of how to join the webinars.

Local area updates

East Kent

Urgent Eye Service - email change

There has been a change of email address for practices referring to the urgent eye service at East Kent Hospitals. Referrals should now be sent to:

ekhuft.urgenteye@nhs.net

Please ensure referrals are complete and contain correct patient details so they can be triaged by the service.

Urgent Eye Service triage line 01233 616232 opens at 9am and closes at 5pm Monday to Friday

Referrals will be reviewed within this period. Referrals emailed outside of this will be reviewed on the next working day. These details are available on the referral support tool.

If a condition is non urgent, the patient may be triaged outside the Urgent Eye Service. (Patients can also be directed to the Minor Eye Conditions service (MEC's)). **Please note: This is not a walk in service.**



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