



Important information for GP practices across Kent and Medway
Thursday 13 August 2020

Clinical advice and support

Friends and Family Test update

NHS England and NHS Improvement's Insight and Feedback team is exploring when will be the optimum time to restart the Friends and Family data submissions. This [update provides](#) more information on the restart, as well as a new Friends and Family Test analysis tool.

31 August bank holiday pharmacy hours

August bank holiday pharmacy opening hours have been published on the NHS England [website](#). The details are correct at the time of publishing but are subject to change. We advise the public to contact the pharmacy before attending to ensure they are open and have the required medication.

Action on health inequalities session this Friday

NHS England and NHS Improvement Health Inequalities national advisory group is hosting a health inequalities session on Friday 14 August. More details are available on the [Future NHS: Engagement and communications for health and care systems workspace](#) (login required).

Effective workforce planning webinar

Effective Workforce Planning in Primary Care – Can we face the future without it? Sponsored by [Skills for Health](#). This webinar is on Wednesday 19 August, 12.30pm to 1.30pm. [Register for free](#).

Insights into effective workforce planning opportunities in the primary care sector, brought to you in partnership with Skills for Health, Health Education England, and expert guest panellists.

Key learning points:

1. Explore why workforce planning is an immediate and urgent priority for primary care.
2. Identify the essential principles and characteristics of effective workforce planning.
3. Help to build confidence and knowledge that excellent workforce planning is an achievable and realistic goal.

Infection prevention and control

Good ventilation to minimise risk of Covid-19 transmission

A recommendation from the environmental sub-group of SAGE earlier this year was for local consideration to any enhancements that could be made to improve ventilation in healthcare premises. National infection prevention and control guidance [was updated to include this](#).

Portable fans, either with or without blades, should not be used during an outbreak of infection in any healthcare setting as micro-organisms accumulate in the motors and on the blades. They should be removed from all clinical areas to mitigate the risk of transmission of Covid-19.

Air conditioning units should be healthcare recommended and properly maintained, meet water safety requirements, cleaned regularly and engineers consulted to ensure external air source is appropriate. Natural ventilation reduces risk of transmission and can help to cool rooms during high weather temperatures. During these times, organisational heatwave policies should be referred to which will encourage usual heat control measures e.g. curtains to remain closed, outside shutters/shade on windows etc and also ensuring advice is in line with [health and safety recommendations](#).

The logo consists of the letters 'IT' in white, bold, sans-serif font, centered within a solid teal rectangular background.

Digitising care homes - expressions of interest

With winter pressures coming there is a timely opportunity to expand the use of digital technology to provide remote care and monitoring to patients who are residents in care homes, including for those with Covid-19 symptoms.

Kent and Medway CCG and partners have secured funding for around 100 care homes to be issued with an iPad and improve access to digital care for their residents. Participating care home's staff will be trained by [The Design and Learning Centre](#) on how to use the iPads and support digital literacy.

The support programme will help care homes to:

- use video consultations and online consultations so your patients can access primary care remotely
- improve care coordination - the aim is to support care homes to move to using virtual multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs) through online meetings (such as Microsoft Teams) with GPs, health and care teams, and
- support communication between care homes and practices by making sure care homes use NHS mail.

We will also support practices to make sure the programme runs smoothly and not create extra workload from your point of view.

If you believe that the care provided for your patients in a particular care home could be improved by taking part in this programme, please send an expression of interest to designandlearningcentre@kent.gov.uk with the following information:

Name of proposed care home you think would benefit by having an

iPad:

Practice contact name:

Email:

Tel:

The programme will then check with the care home to explain the offer and discuss their readiness to participate with support from local health

economies. You may wish to consider if your Primary Care Network wishes to participate. This may be a better way of aligning the way practices support care homes in your area. If this would be an option, or for any other questions, please also email designandlearningcentre@kent.gov.uk.

Workforce

Mentor and fellowship schemes

Please see these updates on the [Supporting Mentors Scheme](#) and [General Practice Fellowships for GPs and Nurses](#).

Please share this update with colleagues who are [welcome to subscribe](#) to the mailing list.

Previous issues of the GP Practice Update [are available online](#).

If you have any feedback or ideas to make the updates more useful to you [please email](#).



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Useful links

- [Offers for NHS staff](#)

- [NHS England primary care bulletin](#)
- [Kent and Medway Medicines Optimisation Newsletters](#)

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