



Important information for GP practices across Kent and Medway
Tuesday 1 September 2020

Weekly primary care sitrep survey

Many thanks for continuing to take the time to complete the sitrep survey. Here is the most recent summary of responses for [week commencing 24 August](#).

Please make sure that one person from each practice completes the weekly sitrep here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk> by 11am on Thursday 4 September.

Clinical advice and support

King's College Hospital GP Liver ECHO programme

King's hepatology service is using [Project ECHO - Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes](#) to deliver a [series of seminars to GPs](#) this autumn. The first one on 21 September is about "Deranged liver function tests/when to refer/interpreting viral serology" but GPs who are interested in taking part are asked to register by 14 September.

Share your experience of remote diabetes consultations

Have you delivered remote diabetes consultations for patients living with diabetes during the pandemic? If so, Diabetes UK want to hear from you. They have created surveys for both healthcare professionals and people living with diabetes to provide an opportunity to share their experiences of remote diabetes consultations during the pandemic. They hope to improve their understanding of these experiences to inform future work. Find out more and have your say before 6 September 2020 by visiting [their survey here](#). More advice for healthcare professionals on Covid-19 and diabetes is on [the Diabetes UK website](#).

Webinar: tackling health inequalities

Throughout the pandemic, health inequalities across the UK became more apparent. For Cardiovascular Disease (CVD), health inequalities are prominent and account for more than a quarter of deaths in England. On Thursday 3 September, 12pm - 1.30pm - '[Tackling Health Inequalities: Tackling CVD](#)' for [leaders in primary care](#) (link will become live when event starts) Professor Chris Bentley will share evidence and solutions of what works to reduce health inequalities, incorporating both place-based and evidence-based approaches. For more information, please email england.clinicalpolicy@nhs.net.

IT

Fire at IT data centre

The fire at a data centre in London last Thursday (27 August) affected IT networks across the UK, including some 90 per cent of GP practices in Kent

and Medway. After the fire service attended the site power was restored. This meant that the vast majority of GP practices were back online by the end of the day.

NELCSU and the CCG teams worked well together to resolve the network issues that were caused by the fire. The network service is provided by a commercial supplier and as with all such incidents there will be a review to look at what improvements can be made to our business continuity plans. GP practices are encouraged to do the same.

Digital Pioneer fellowship

The [Digital Pioneer Fellowship programme](#) supports NHS employees in London and the South East to design and lead transformation projects underpinned by digital innovation. Now in its third consecutive year, the 12-month programme provides up to 30 Fellows with the opportunity to be part of a learning community focussed on accelerating the pace of digital transformation within their respective NHS organisations. The individuals taking part have access to workshops, resources and events throughout the year to share challenges and experience, learn from experts and collaborate to co-design solutions.

Applications close 6th September at midnight.

Finance

Kent Community Foundation

Kent Community Foundation are administering a new fund focused on struggling families for Kent County Council (KCC). Here is the link to the [online information](#). They are able to provide cash hardship grants to families directly of up to £500 to help with either buying food or essential items for the home or just

to help pay the bills over the next few months (this excludes council tax/rent arrears). If you are in touch with a family who you think need this support please get in touch. Referrals must come from a professional like a social worker, GP or teacher. KCF aim to get money to families within two weeks. It's a simple process - just an email to paul@kentcf.org.uk.

Unfortunately enquiries/applications direct from families cannot be accepted.

Workforce

Physician Associate (PA) supervision support programme

Health Education England has commissioned a Physician Associate (PA) recruitment and supervision support programme for any practices thinking of employing a PA for the first time. It is available for a limited time, at no cost to your practice. Through the programme experts will support:

- understanding the role, scope and benefits of employing a PA
- making sure your PA is seeing patients confidently, effectively, safely and efficiently
- understanding how services to patients can develop
- developing the PA role to benefit you in the long term.

Find [more information here](#), or email info@our-path.co.uk.

Flu

Primary care flu toolkit

Last Wednesday (26 August) Public Health's Screening and Immunisation Team wrote to all practice managers and practice flu leads in Kent and Medway. They sent out a Primary Care Flu Toolkit that included all their key information on the 2020/21 flu vaccination programme as well as invite template letters for patients in clinical risk groups that practices can use. If you did not receive it or have any queries, please contact them via their generic email: phst@nhs.net.

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](#).
