



Important information for GP practices across Kent and Medway
Thursday 24 September 2020

Clinical advice and support

Oxygen therapy outside acute settings

We have been asked to circulate [this document](#) to support clinicians with provision of oxygen therapy for Covid-19 patients outside the acute hospital setting. It was adapted for the South East Region by Sue Ladds, Regional Chief Pharmacist, NHS England and NHS Improvement South East, in consultation with the South East home oxygen supplier and contract managers and the South East COVID19 Critical Care Cell. If you have any questions please email england.se-incident@nhs.net who requested we share it with you.

IT

Electronic Prescription Services Phase 4 (EPS4) - enablement by EMIS begins 22 September

NHS Digital has confirmed that Electronic Prescription Service Phase 4 (EPS4) will be enabled by EMIS for all (non-dispensing) practices from 22/9/20 onwards. The expected completion date for all practices is 28/09/2020. EMIS will communicate directly with each practice individually, notifying you the day

before your activation date and providing you with details of the specific actions your practice needs to take. This is a previously announced national initiative and further information is available in the [4 September COVID-19 Primary Care bulletin](#).

The Calculating Quality Reporting Service (CQRS)

A [communication](#) has been sent directly to all active users of the CQRS system. They wished us to share it again to make sure all are aware that the CQRS system enhancements have now been successfully completed and full functionality has been restored.

The new URL for CQRS is www.cqrs.nhs.uk, please update any bookmarks. The previous URL will automatically redirect users to this page.

Action for CQRS users with a NHSmail “@nhs.net” email address

- You will login to CQRS via a single sign-on method using your “nhs.net” email address and password

Action for CQRS users with a “nhs.uk” email address

- You will continue to login via your existing username and password, known as “legacy login”

For all users, profile and permissions will remain the same and all other functions, such as offering services, viewing achievement, approving payments and granting user access, will also remain the same.

If you have any CQRS Feedback please email the relevant NHS Digital team: cqrsfeedback@nhs.net.

Finance

Delay to "go live" of Primary Care Support England (PCSE) online

We have received notification from PCSE that the move of GP Payments and Pensions administration from the National Health Application and Infrastructure Service (NHAIS) to PCSE online has been delayed. It will no longer be completed on 28 September as previously advised.

Practices should continue to declare achievement and commissioners should continue to approve payments as normal.

Further information about this has been published by Primary Care Support England <https://pcsengland.co.uk/rv/ff0069b0ccc7cf57728dcd17054383f5b6789fb1>.

Infection Prevention and Control

New NHS COVID-19 app

The new NHS COVID-19 app is now available to download. The app will be used, alongside traditional contact tracing, to notify users if they come into contact with someone who later tests positive for coronavirus.

Assets to promote it on websites and on social media are now available to download from the [Campaign Resource Centre](#). For further details:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/venues-required-to-enforce-rule-of-6-nhs-qr-code-posters-and-contact-logs>.

NHS COVID-19 app QR codes

The NHS COVID-19 app has a feature which enables a venue to register for an official NHS QR code and allows users to 'check-in' to participating venues on their app by photographing the box like code.

Some venues in England are expected to maintain customer logs and they should now make sure that official NHS QR code posters are available for customers to use. This does not include hospitals, GP practices, dentists and community pharmacies as they have appointment systems and therefore a clear way to identify and contact people who have been on their premises. Although if you wish to offer the option to your visitors the posters can be

created on-line for free by going to <https://www.gov.uk/create-coronavirus-qr-poster>.

Face coverings

We are getting reports that some visitors to surgeries are refusing to wear a face covering and some staff have suffered verbal abuse as a result. This is unacceptable. There has also been some unhelpful media coverage of the issue. It is clear that practices are correct in requiring visitors to wear a face covering to keep patients and staff safer from infection.

The government [Hand, Face and Space](#) campaign states that “people should wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult and when people come into contact with people they do not normally meet”. [The general government guidance](#) states clearly that face coverings are needed in NHS settings, including hospitals and primary or community care settings, such as GP surgeries.

There are obvious some exemptions but you and your staff are the people to make that assessment prior to any face to face interaction. If patients are reluctant to wear a mask then other options, other than face to face consultations, should be explored and a risk assessment may be required.

We will continue to support practices who act to keep their patients and staff safe by requiring all visitors to wear a face covering. We will request a clearer public statement from the NHS that you can use as a poster and on websites. The current version of the NHS poster does not include specific advice about face coverings. In the meantime we are producing something locally that you can use if you wish. We will also publicise the need to wear a face covering when visiting GP surgeries to keep patients and staff safe.

Flu

Flu campaign support

It is recognised that this year the demand for flu vaccines is higher and this, alongside the expansion of the cohorts, will undoubtedly put pressure on general practice in terms of workforce, workload and obtaining vaccine supply. In order that we can assess for each of you what your plans, intentions and limitations are we will send in advance of the sitrep next week some scoping questions to Practice Managers individually on Friday 25 September. Please look out for this email and prepare to help us help you by sending the data back via the sitrep that will be in next Tuesday's bulletin.

We are seeking to understand the cohorts where you would prefer another provider to deliver the vaccinations so that we can continue those discussions with other providers. We are aware that the programme is underway and you are delivering already but recognise that pressures are such that a good plan across a range of providers will support you through the winter period.

Written instruction for the administration of seasonal flu vaccination to practice staff

This is a [link that gives information](#) regarding the use of written instructions for GP practices to offer flu vaccination to their staff. There is a written instruction template.

Administration

Updated Network Contract Directed Enhanced Services (DES)

NHS England and NHS Improvement has published an updated [Network Contract DES Specification](#) and [Network Contract DES Guidance](#). The changes cover areas such as the introduction of the Investment and Impact Fund, the introduction of nursing associate and trainee nursing associate roles to the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme, and flexibility – by exception – for

the clinical lead role for care homes to be a non-GP. The full summary of changes is set out in the [covering letter](#).

PCNs who wish to continue to provide the DES and have no changes to any of their sign up information (as set out in section 4.3.2 of the DES) do not need to take any action, as they will be auto-enrolled into the new DES. If a practice does not accept the revised terms and wishes to opt out, they must notify the commissioner by 17 October 2020. This information is set out in the [covering letter](#). In addition, guidance has been published for the [Investment and Impact Fund](#) and for [Structured Medication Reviews \(SMR\)](#).

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](#).



Useful links

- [Offers for NHS staff](#)
- [NHS England primary care bulletin](#)

Produced by the communications team, NHS Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group
