



Important information for GP practices across Kent and Medway  
**Tuesday 20 October 2020**

## Weekly primary care sitrep

Thank you for your continued completion of the weekly sitrep. A summary of last week's responses can be found [here](#).

Please can you make sure that one person from each practice completes the weekly sitrep here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/62MD2B7> by **11am on Thursday 22 October**.

## Clinical advice and support

### Supporting those most at risk from Covid

Clinical leaders from across Kent and Medway have been involved in work in relation to Covid-19 and preparing for a rise in infections. There has been agreement around [identification, risk stratification and intervention](#). The key aspects to this to be discussed with PCNs and within ICPs:

1. **Pro-active care;** identification, risk stratification and proposed progressive interventions for patients at high risk of developing Covid

(including BAME and long-term health conditions i.e. diabetes and hypertension). The overall aim is to ensure that individuals across K&M at the higher risk of adverse health outcomes are supported to minimize their risk by providing prioritised, targeted and personalised advice based on individual levels of risk. In order to support GPs to do this, the CCG is working with practices to protect income and to agree a plan for QOF population stratification during October and November 2020. This approach should include the identification and prioritisation of the highest risk patients for pro-active review.

2. **Re-active care;** setting up a system of monitoring patients who have tested positive for Covid, actively monitoring them for signs of silent hypoxia, in order to ensure signs of deterioration are picked up and escalated as early as possible.
3. **Primary Care Treatment Centres** – mobilising Primary Care Treatment Centres (in some areas this may be home visiting services) for Covid symptomatic patients requiring face to face assessments. This will support general practices to ensure safe management of patients and reduce contamination and spread whilst maintaining routine services at each surgery.

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## Virtual support for practices

The NHS Time for Care Faculty has centrally funded resources to support practices through a programme called Productive General Practice (PGP) QuickStart.

The programme offers virtual support for general practices from experienced improvement facilitators over a six-week period. The focus is on fast, practical improvement to help reduce pressures and release efficiencies within general practices. A summary of the [programme is available here](#).

The deadline for expressions of interest is 27 November, and all sessions are delivered virtually starting in January 2021. For further information, please contact [tara.humphrey2@england.nhs.uk](mailto:tara.humphrey2@england.nhs.uk)

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## QOF protection 2020/21

Following on from the CCG letter of the 9 October we committed to confirming arrangements about QOF Protection in 2020/21 and what practices will need to do.

The Public Health England (PHE) report '[Beyond the Data: Understanding the Impact of Covid-19 on BAME groups](#)' highlighted an increased risk of death from Covid-19 for people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups. Stakeholder engagement concluded that for many BAME groups a 'lack of trust in NHS services and healthcare treatment resulted in their reluctance to seek care on a timely basis, and late presentation with disease'.

In order to support the ongoing response to Covid-19 and the need to pro-actively target and support our most vulnerable patients NHS England have agreed changes to the [Quality and Outcomes Framework for 2020/21](#).

There are 310 points that will be subject to income protection based upon historical practice performance, and to be eligible for income protection practices will need to agree a plan for QOF population stratification with the CCG. This approach should include the identification and prioritisation of the highest risk patients for pro-active review.

The focus areas are:

- Black And Minority Ethnic (BAME) Groups
- 20 per cent most deprived neighbourhoods
- Those at Risk from Poorly Controlled Long Term Condition Parameters (1)
- Those with a history of missing reviews
- Commit to making referrals to existing and any new weight management programmes.

### Income Protection Indicators - New Requirements for Practices

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- By 31 March 2021 – all practices to have recorded the ethnicity of a minimum of 90 per cent of their practice population in order to be able to accurately identify their BAME population for targeted clinical interventions.
- All practices establish a register of patients who have poorly controlled long-term condition parameters and target them for further review, intervention and/or treatment or referral as deemed clinically necessary, with a focus on those patients who have a BAME background that are at increased risk of Covid complications.
- All practices will establish a register of patients and pro-actively contact and complete a review of those patients (with a focus on those who have a BAME background that are at increased risk of Covid complications) who;
  - Have missed reviews
  - Have been exception reported from QOF
  - Have not responded to offers of care
    - If practices have not been able to complete a review on a patient to be able to provide a detailed list of the number and type of contacts that have been made and the barriers they were unable to overcome in order to conduct the review.

If a practice wishes to be considered for the QOF income protection as outlined in the 2020/21 QOF guidance the practice must complete and return the required form to [wendy.malkinson@nhs.net](mailto:wendy.malkinson@nhs.net) by Friday 13 November. We will be emailing practices shortly with further information.

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(1)The long-term conditions focus disease groups within the revised 2020/21QOF are: Heart Failure; Asthma; Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD); Non-Diabetic Hyperglycaemia. And in specific reference to the BAME community – Diabetes and Hypertension

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## Covid-19 reproduction number and growth rate

Information about the reproduction number (R) and growth rate of coronavirus (Covid-19) in the UK can be found [here](#). Dr Michael Baker – Deputy Director of Healthcare Public Health for PHE in the South East has confirmed that the doubling time has been around the 7 to 8-day mark since 12 September in our region.

## Flu

### Cold chain storage

With the increased pressure on flu vaccination supplies this winter, please ensure the temperature of your vaccine fridge is checked daily during the working week in order to reduce the risk of cold chain incidents and potential vaccine wastage.

The links below provide information and guidance on vaccine storage and cold chain maintenance and actions to take in the event of an incident. In the event of a breach in the cold chain or concerns regarding the storage and handling of vaccines, it is important to contact your local screening and immunisation team in NHS England for further support and advice: [phst@nhs.net](mailto:phst@nhs.net)

- [Protocol for ordering, storing and handling vaccines](#). This protocol aims to ensure that vaccines are stored and managed properly so that immunisations are carried out safely and efficiently. It covers standards for vaccine storage, maintenance of the cold chain, auditing and monitoring of stock and incident reporting.
- [Vaccine incident guidance](#). This guidance advises on action to be taken in response to vaccine storage and administration errors and signposts providers to support and advice.
- What to do if issues with vaccine storage management are identified during a Care Quality Commission inspection: [Vaccine Storage CQC](#).

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## Local Area updates

### East Kent

#### Children's phlebotomy clinic

Please read an [update on children's phlebotomy](#) from EKHUFT.

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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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Read the CCG's latest [Prescribing Newsletter](#) and [Which Script](#), along with [supply shortage alerts](#).

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### Useful links

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

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

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