



Important information for GP practices across Kent and Medway
Thursday 22 October 2020

Clinical advice and support

QOF protection

Thank you to those of you who took the time and trouble to give us feedback on the item in Tuesday's bulletin about the proposals for QOF protection. The CCG has listened to your feedback and is reflecting upon arrangements. We recognise that this target should be an aspiration rather than an absolute target. We are working with the LMC and will publish further details in the Update soon.

Keeping patients informed - action required

More than 50 practices have so far signed up to the iPlato engagement hub which is an important mechanism for sending urgent text messages to patients.

By joining the hub practices will enable the CCG to send communications directly to patients without having to put any additional workload on practices, and will not cost practices anything.

All practices are invited to participate in the CCG-funded Patient Engagement Hub Initiative, supported by iPlato. More details are available in [last week's bulletin](#).

Please join the NHS Kent and Medway CCG Urgent Engagement Hub with this link: <https://consent.mygp.com/kent-medway-ccg-urgent-engagement-hub/>

Finance

Extension to block payments

The existing block payment arrangements to general practice for the delivery of Local Enhanced Services (LES) and Directed Enhanced Services (DES) will be extended until 31 March 2021.

The block payment will be paid on the same financial basis as it has been for the period for the first seven months of 2020 (April – October 2020), as set out in the CCG and Kent LMC joint financial support letter dated 24 March 2020. This amount will be calculated by the CCG and requires no additional action from the practice.

Block payment values will be amended to take account of the implementation of the Network Contract DES care homes specification which was implemented on 1 October 2020 and any changes to the LES for care homes. This means that all care home payments will now flow through PCNs rather than individual practices.

Top-up payments

There will be an option for practices to receive a top-up payment where performance is proven to be in excess of historical activity levels.

Practices would only be eligible for a top-up payment where it can be demonstrated that total income from actual activity exceeds the block payment value over a defined period of time.

In considering whether to make a claim for a top-up payment, practices must:

- take into account all services contained with the block when calculating their income (based upon actual activity) versus the block amount and
- consider performance over the following defined periods (November – December 2020 and January – March 2021) as a maximum of two top-up claims will be considered.

The first top-up claim will cover activity undertaken during November and December 2020 and should be submitted by **18 January 2021**.

The second claim will consider activity in the final quarter of the year i.e. January 2021 to March 2021 and should be submitted by **19 April 2021**.

Claims submitted after these deadlines will not be considered for a top-up reimbursement.

A proforma template to make the top-up claim will be issued and this will contain details of where the claims need to be sent.

Flu

Accessing additional flu vaccines

Practices are now able to order from the additional stock and it is advised that they should attempt this now, providing they meet the criteria.

It appears that before an order can be accepted, authorisation from the DHSC is required. Once authorised, your practice will receive an order form to place an order directly with a manufacturer.

There is also advice on the system of the following:

- aTIV will be available from week beginning 19 October
- Flucelvax will be only available from 23 November

No named delivery date will be provided. Delivery of aTIV will be within seven working days of receipt of your order form.

Please DO NOT book any flu clinics until you are in receipt of your additional vaccines. Please consider storage before ordering and whether you need to order little and often rather than bulk.

Practices are encouraged to keep a waiting list of patients who require the vaccine if there are supply issues.

Please note: national TV advertising for flu vaccines is expected to start next week.

Flu champions

The CCG is looking for clinicians who speak one of the following languages to be filmed as part of our work to promote flu vaccines to target groups:

Nepalese, Hindi, Punjabi, Bengali, Urdu.

Please get in touch with the communications team if you are interested in taking part: kmccg.comms@nhs.net

Administration

Update archive

We have been sending out this Update twice a week since 17 March and we are sometimes asked for information about what was published about a subject in a past edition. Unfortunately the mailing system that we use does not have an indexing process. However we are very grateful that the LMC has set up a very useful webpage that gives a summary of contents of each Update and would like to thank them for that. All past issues and their contents can be found on this page: <https://www.kentlmc.org/kentmedwayccgcovid19updates>

Local area updates

East Kent

The acute oncology department has now been working a 7 day service since February 2020, and as a team are keen to have your feedback to celebrate successes and explore areas for improvement.

Your time in [completing this questionnaire](#) would be very much appreciated. Please can this be returned to ekh-tr.AcuteOncology@nhs.net by Monday 9 November.

West Kent

Please see this update on [self-care and prevention services](#) in west Kent.

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](#).

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

Useful links

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

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