



**Important information for GP practices across Kent and Medway**  
**Tuesday 3 November 2020**

## **Weekly primary care sitrep**

Thank you for continuing to complete the sitrep. The summary of last week's responses can be found [here](#).

In order to further enable the primary care team to support practices with IT issues, please can you include any IT helpdesk reference numbers in your response if you would like the CCG to follow up with the CSU.

If you do not have a service desk number for your issue, then please report the issue to the IT service desk in the first instance. The CCG can only escalate ongoing issues with the CSU using an active service desk number.

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 5 November.

## **Clinical advice and support**

### **National restrictions**

New national restrictions to control the pandemic are due to begin on Thursday 5 November. Full [details are available](#) on the gov.uk web page and

we will include important information in these Updates as it becomes available. The new measures largely affect non-essential shops and leisure facilities. General practice, along with all other NHS services, is expected to continue to provide support to its patients.

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## **Patients signing prescriptions - suspension of requirement**

DHSC has approved a temporary measure in England to help limit the transmission of coronavirus by [suspending the need for patients to sign prescription, dental and ophthalmic forms](#) for a period of five months to 31 March 2021.

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## **Diabetes booking hub now live**

The Diabetes Structured Education Booking Hub is now live and local people with diabetes are using it to book appropriate education courses. The objectives include:

- Encouraging people to take an interest in their own health and providing them with information to make an informed choice on their own care.
- Empower people to take control of their health and care through personalised advice and signposting.
- To reduce barriers around unmet personal needs that people with diabetes currently face by maximising choice.
- Improve access by enabling people with diabetes to attend structured diabetes courses in Kent and Medway at a time and location that best meets their personal needs.
- To explain and promote the benefits of attending structured education to individuals and their healthcare providers.
- To streamline the referral and booking process, using digital channels.

- Improving data collection and reporting to enable commissioners to better plan capacity.
- Using cost-effective digital channels (e.g. email and SMS text messaging) to improve the patient experience from referral to completion and then into the maintenance or relapse phase.

You can visit the hub here: <https://www.diabetes-education-km.co.uk/> and you may wish to promote to patients

## Information governance

### Information sharing frameworks

As previously advertised, the CCG Information Governance team are running a series of webinars for GP practices to give advice on the actions that organisations need to take regarding information sharing frameworks.

In line with data protection legislation, information sharing frameworks outline the legal basis and proportionate security and governance controls for health and social care providers to process, store and share information to support direct provision of care for the health and wellbeing of the population.

#### North and west Kent, and Medway GP practices new to the ISG

12 November from 1 pm to 3 pm

16 November from 2.30 pm to 4 pm

19 November from 2.30 pm to 4 pm.

#### East Kent practices already on the ISG

12 November from 3.30 pm to 4.30 pm

19 November 1 pm to 2 pm.

To book places please email [kmccg.northkentgpdataprotection@nhs.net](mailto:kmccg.northkentgpdataprotection@nhs.net)

## Flu

### Housebound and care home vaccinations

Thank you for your returns via the sit rep recently indicating where you needed support to deliver to your care homes and/or non community caseload housebound patients. Based on this there are a number of arrangements now in place to support that.

#### Housebound

DGS/Swale – Virgin has been commissioned to deliver to community non-caseload housebound patients, however, local arrangements can be developed where a practice or PCN wishes to use another provider.

Medway – MCH has been commissioned to deliver to community non-caseload housebound patients.

West Kent – KCHFT is commissioned to deliver to community non-caseload patients and to support this capacity there are arrangements in development with another provider to accelerate the delivery timescale – this will be co-delivered by KCHFT and the other provider to coordinate lists and delivery and will include care homes.

East Kent – KCHFT is commissioned to deliver to non-caseload housebound and in the same way as for west Kent. Arrangements are in development with other providers to accelerate delivery – local details will follow shortly.

#### Care homes

Any practices who need support to deliver to care homes can approach any of the above providers to enter in local sub contracting arrangements and we can help support this if you make contact with your local primary care team.

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## Vaccinations for people with learning disabilities and autism

This is a [short film presentation](#) that supports general practice and pharmacy to carry out flu vaccinations for people with a learning disability and autistic people who may be eligible for a vaccination. The film covers why it is important, who is eligible for a free vaccine, reasonable adjustments, consent and decision making. A parent of a 16-year-old with a learning disability describes how GPs and pharmacists can support families to make sure their relatives can have their vaccination.

Please note: a new [1-page poster](#) has been created as a quick guide, primarily for GP practice staff and community pharmacists, highlighting who is eligible for the free flu vaccine.

### Safeguarding

#### Online training sessions

Please find attached a flyer with details of a number of free online sessions this week that staff can join to improve their safeguarding knowledge and awareness. The sessions have been arranged by the national NHSEI safeguarding team and, with appropriate reflection, count towards Level 3 training. The links in the poster sent previously were not active so please use [this document to access training](#) by clicking on the 'attendee link'.

### Local area updates

#### DGS

#### Phlebotomy update

Please read this [update on phlebotomy services](#) for the DGS area.

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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