



Important information for GP practices across Kent and Medway
Thursday 5 November 2020

Clinical advice and support

Protected learning time (PLT)

Dr Navin Kumta, Caroline Selkirk, and the chairs of the three training hubs have asked us to communicate the following:

Dear colleagues,

We have just entered the second lockdown in England. We are also aware that locally Covid numbers are rising, doubling time is reducing and the age group affected is extending to beyond the 25-34 age group.

The training hub leads, together with the CCG, have therefore had to make the difficult decision of cancelling PLT events from the week commencing 16 November, for the remainder of this calendar year. We are grateful to practices who will have to amend their planned closures, but we wanted to give as much notice as possible.

We hope that we can restart these hugely important events from January and thank you for understanding the reasons for making this extremely difficult decision. We are meeting jointly next week to plan a robust system for ensuring PLTs can continue in 2021 and beyond as we recognise that this protected time is so essential for primary care resilience. The training hubs are still contactable as below to support practices during this time.

E: eastkent.traininghub@nhs.net

W: www.eastkenttraininghub.org

E: NorthKent.traininghub@nhs.net

W: <https://www.nktraininghub.co.uk/>

E: kmccg.wkenttraininghub@nhs.net

W: www.westkenteducationnetwork.co.uk

Covid vaccinations

The Government has asked the NHS to be ready to deliver a Covid-19 vaccination programme so that it can mobilise and start offering vaccinations as soon as one becomes available. There has understandably been some media coverage of this request. We are currently drafting plans in order to ensure that we are ready for this, further details and timeframes will be shared with you shortly. These plans will be finalised when we have certainty on when and what vaccines will be approved for use. NHS planning is based on the latest information on vaccine development including which groups will be the priority to get vaccinated early in the programme.

Postnatal checks

NHS England has flagged that there are ongoing concerns raised by other regions re: the issue of General Practice Nurses (GPNs) undertaking postnatal checks on women without the necessary competencies.

There is **no** suggestion that this is happening in Kent and Medway, however we have been advised to share for reference the guidance from the Medical Directorate and the GP contract team. It states that:

15) In this regulation, “maternal postnatal consultation” means a consultation with a general medical practitioner at which the physical and mental health and well-being of the patient is reviewed.” <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2020/226/schedule/1/made>

Therefore the responsibility of carrying out these checks is with the GP and not the GPNs. As such, any checks carried out by a GPN would be in breach of the contract.

Cervical screening

Jo's Trust has developed some tips to help you communicate with and support your patients through cervical screening in the context of Covid-19. Here is a link to the recently published blog and short film developed in collaboration with NHSEI and PHE colleagues:

<https://www.jostrust.org.uk/about-us/news-and-blog/blog/tips-communicating-patients-about-cervical-screening>. Please note and cascade appropriately among your team and networks.

Update: Diabetes Prevention programme and glucose monitoring

The NHS national diabetes team sent out some important information and updates in a letter that can be [read here](#). The letter covers the areas below, with more detail in the letter itself.

Diabetes Prevention Programme

As part of our Diabetes Prevention Programme recovery plan, we want to continue to support diabetes patients with the offer of virtual support to prevent and manage diabetes, and the technology to enable this, where clinically appropriate.

As those with diabetes are at a higher risk of developing serious Covid complications, we have further expanded access to the [Healthier You programme](#), which helps people at high risk of type 2 diabetes to make lasting lifestyle changes. People are now able to self-refer for this support, alongside direct referral from general practice. People can self-refer via this website <https://preventing-diabetes.co.uk/> once they do the “know your risk score”.

Pregnancy

For information, the NHS Long Term Plan includes the commitment that “by 2020/21, all pregnant women with type 1 diabetes will be offered continuous glucose monitoring [CGM], helping to improve neonatal outcomes.” The national Maternity and Diabetes teams have agreed that the Local Maternity Systems (LMS) should lead this work at system level from 20/21. The following LMS deliverable has been agreed: “all pregnant women with type 1 diabetes are offered continuous glucose monitoring by March 2021”.

Flash Glucose Monitoring

At the end of June 2020, 31 per cent of all those living with type 1 diabetes have access to Freestyle Libre. This has shown marked improvement in

HbA1c, reduction in hospital admissions and improvement in mental health parameters.

Finance

£1 per head

The CCG recently wrote to all GP practices to provide a further update and sought responses to queries and outstanding claims by Thursday 5 November. On reflection, and in discussion with a number of practices and the LMC, we have agreed to extend the deadline until Thursday 19 November to allow practices more time to provide the outstanding information. This information needs to be returned to martin.kayes@nhs.net.

QOF income protection

As reported in last Thursday's Update, the QOF protection requirement has changed and the baseline assessment removed. Thank you to all those practices who have already returned their plans, if you have not already done so, then could you please return your plan by Friday 13 November to Wendy Malkinson. Wendy.malkinson@nhs.net. The revised QOF letter is available [via this link](#)

Communications

Door posters

We have been asked by some practices for advice about posters for their front doors. We have not yet received any from NHS England so we have produced [four different posters](#). They are branded NHS – if you want to use and add your own logo there is space in the top left. We have left them as word documents so you can amend if you wish to use, you can also create a new one by switching blocks of text around so it is most appropriate for the practice door. They all carry the “hands, space, face” messaging to reinforce that this continues to be a priority for patients and staff both inside and outside your practices.

New public messaging

Please be advised that [new assets](#) concerning the national restrictions have now been uploaded to the Coronavirus Resource Centre (CRC). As per the Prime Minister's announcement at the weekend, the new measures will apply across England from today, Thursday 5 November. This may also be a good time to promote the Hands Space Face messaging to staff and patients to help the practice to remain free of infection, and we know that the [Hands Space Face](#) messaging is still very important as a method of controlling the spread of the virus. As health staff we all still have a role to play by showing leadership in how we continue to follow guidance.

Flu

Flu cohorts

Please continue to prioritise vaccinations for at risk groups as soon as more stock arrives. It's important that those most vulnerable to flu are encouraged

to get their vaccination as soon as possible. We are still awaiting updates on 50-64s and will let you know as soon as we have more information.

Letter error

NHS England will be writing to all patients who received a call/recall letter in error to explain that they are not eligible for a free flu vaccine. Information will also be sent to practices to help manage any further patient enquiries about this and the gov.uk website will be updated. Further letters to at risk patients have been put on hold while data is reviewed. The CCG will send you any further information we have on this as it becomes available.

Housebound update

In Tuesday's Update we included information on vaccination for [housebound flu patients](#). We can now confirm further details for east Kent:

East Kent – KCHFT is commissioned to deliver to non caseload housebound and they will be in touch with those practices who via the sit rep and recent re-scoping exercise indicated they need support to deliver so that patient lists can be shared with KCHFT and plan put in place to visit the patients.

Please note: in Tuesday's Update for Medway arrangements, we incorrectly said MCH had been commissioned to deliver community housebound patients when it should have said MPA. Apologies for the unhelpful error.

Local area updates

Medway and Swale

Engaging on the future of five Medway GP sites

This week the CCG has launched the engagement on five GP sites in Medway that were formerly run by DMC Healthcare and are currently being managed by Medway Practices Alliance. We are specifically engaging with patients registered at the following surgeries:

- St Mary's Island Surgery, Chatham
- Green Suite at Balmoral Gardens Healthy Living Centre, Gillingham
- Twydall Clinic, Twydall
- Pentagon Centre (Boots), Chatham
- Sunlight Centre Surgery, Gillingham

Around 27,000 patients have been written to asking them to complete a survey and inviting them to one of two virtual public events. For more information please visit <https://www.kentandmedwayccg.nhs.uk/5GPSites>.

East Kent

Avian influenza outbreak at poultry farm near Deal

As you may be aware from media reports, there has been an [avian influenza outbreak](#) in ducks and chickens at a poultry farm near Deal, where a cull of the birds has taken place.

As of 4 November, there have been no reports of people with symptoms. PHE Health Protection Team (HPT) are leading on contact tracing of those exposed on the farm and a small number of people have been provided with antiviral prophylaxis as a precaution.

The HPT will send letters to GPs if a registered patient has been provided with antivirals.

If you are contacted by patients who have visited the farm, please contact your local Health Protection Team for further advice. Further information and guidance is available on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

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 information on the [Linaclotide Pathway](#), along with [supply shortage alerts](#).



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Useful links

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

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