



WESSEX

Local Medical Committees

PM Webinar: 26th August 2020



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Fortnightly Round up

The Headlines

Phase 3 of the response to COVID-19

A reminder of some of the key messages for general practice:

- restore activity to usual levels where clinically appropriate, and reach out proactively to clinically vulnerable patients and those whose care may have been delayed
- make rapid progress in addressing the backlog of childhood immunisations and cervical screening through specific catch-up initiatives and additional capacity through PCNs
- build on the enhanced support to care homes, begin a programme of structured medication reviews
- offer face to face appointments as well as continuing to use remote triage and video, online and telephone consultation
- ensure that everybody with a Learning Disability is identified on the LD register; that their annual health checks are completed; and access to screening and flu vaccinations is proactively arranged.
- proactively review and ensure the completeness of patient ethnicity data by no later 31 December, with general practice prioritising those groups at significant risk of Covid19 from 1 September.

The Headlines

Infection Prevention and Control Guidance

- [Guidance for the remobilisation of services within health and care settings](#) has been published, setting out infection prevention and control recommendations. It re-emphasises that services should continue to utilise virtual consultations and classifies general practice physical consultations as medium risk.

Cervical Screening Administration Service

- The transfer of the CSAS from PCSE back to the NHS includes a new telephone number: 0300 124 0248. CSAS will also be deleting all old email addresses on 31 August 2020 which link to Capita / PCSE. Practices should now use this email: <https://www.csas.nhs.uk/contact-us/>

DVLA

- GP surgeries are reporting requests from patients for GPs to document that they are fit to drive under section 88 of the Road Traffic Act. This is not a contractual requirement and you may refuse such requests. If practices do decide to provide information, they should not provide an opinion but a summary of the facts. The GPC is taking this up nationally with the DVLA

The Headlines

Mask exemption letters for air travel

- Some airlines that are still asking for letters from GPs for mask exemption. This is not required as per the [government advice on exemption cards](#).

Registering patients prior to their release from secure residential estate

- Practices have a contractual obligation to support with registering patients prior to their release from the secure residential estate. GP practices are asked to ensure that processes are in place to support this, with information on how to do this [here](#).

Update to European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

- National Back Office has made some operational changes which means that the email address you would usually send any EHIC information collected at GP registration to has now changed to nhsdigital.costrecovery@nhs.net.

The Headlines

GP Practice Profiles

- These have been updated on the NHS website. Existing profile information will be automatically copied over to the new platform and the way you update your profile has not changed. Profiles editors should have received further information from the NHS website service desk. Use the NHS website GP practice finder to find your new profile: <https://www.nhs.uk/personalisation/login.aspx>

Final pay controls

- RSM (a provider of audit, tax and consulting services) have produced a video on final pay controls for the NHS pension scheme, which explains the charge, how it is calculated and what to do to avoid it at: <https://www.rsmuk.com/what-we-offer/by-industry/healthcare/medical-practices>

New National Institute for Health Protection

- The Government has announced the [creation of a new National Institute for Health Protection \(NIHP\)](#) with immediate effect.



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Flu Update

Content

- PPE & flu vaccination clinics
- Additional cohorts
- Information to be aware of
- Delivering flu clinics
- FAQ's
 - Operational
 - Clinical
- Next Steps

PPE Flu Clinics



**COVID-19: Guidance for the
remobilisation of services within
health and care settings**

Infection prevention and control
recommendations

Uncontrolled if printed.



Vaccination/injection clinics

- where contact with individuals is minimal:
 - single use PPE items for each encounter (gloves & aprons) is not necessary
 - gloves and aprons are recommended when there is (anticipated) exposure to blood/body fluids or non-intact skin
- Staff administering vaccinations/injections must
 - apply hand hygiene between patients
 - wear a sessional facemask

IPC Guidance

In outpatient, **primary care** and day care settings:

- where possible services should utilise **virtual consultation**
- providers should consider **timed appointments** and strategies such as asking patients/individuals to wait to be **called to the waiting area with minimum wait times**
- patients/individuals should **not attend if they have symptoms of COVID-19** and **communications** should **advise actions** to take in such circumstances
- communications prior to appointments should provide advice on what to do if patients/individuals suspect they have come into contact with someone who has COVID-19 prior to their appointment
- letters should be altered to advise patients/individuals of parking, entrances, IPC precautions and COVID-19 symptoms
- patients/individuals must be instructed to remain in waiting areas and not visit other parts of the facility
- prior to admission to the waiting area, all patients/individuals and accompanying persons should be screened for COVID-19 symptoms and assessed for exposure to contacts
- **patients/individuals and accompanying persons will also be asked to wear a mask / face covering at all times**

Additional Cohorts

This year as part of our wider planning for winter, and subject to contractual negotiations, this season flu vaccination will be additionally offered to: -

- household contacts of those on the [NHS Shielded Patient List](#). Specifically, individuals who expect to share living accommodation with a shielded person on most days over the winter and therefore for whom continuing close contact is unavoidable
- children of school Year 7 age in secondary schools (those aged 11 on 31 August 2020). This group have been included in the “All Children” group above.
- health and social care workers employed through Direct Payment (personal budgets) and/or Personal Health Budgets, such as Personal Assistants, to deliver domiciliary care to patients and service users

PHE aim to further extend the vaccine programme **in November and December to include the 50-64 year-old age group subject to vaccine supply**. This extension is being phased to allow you to prioritise those in at risk groups first. Providers will be given notice in order to have services in place for any additional cohorts later in the season. Currently, this group are not an eligible cohort and will need to wait for national guidance before able to book for a free vaccine.

Information to be aware of

- Recording of ethnicity
- Hospitals offering flu vaccinations
- Children – refusal of vaccination due to porcine gelatine content
- Pharmacies being enabled to vaccinate both residential care/nursing home residents & staff
- Uptake ambition now all 75%
- PharmOutcomes
- Sign up CQRS reminder

Delivering Flu Clinics

- Alternative delivery
 - Flu Calculator
 - LMC Documents
 - Checklists for Staff
 - Cold Chain
- CQC
- Indemnity

Frequently Asked Questions - Operational

- Where are we getting flu jabs from for the 50-64 age group?
- When can we expect guidance on the 50-64 age group?
- Does a GP have to be on the premises when running a flu clinic?
- Are we covered under the CNSGP scheme for giving flu vaccinations to staff?

Frequently Asked Questions - Clinical

- What vaccination are we expected to give to the friends/family members of shielded patients & when are we expected to do these?
- What are the training requirements for clinicians giving the flu vaccination?
- What if you are unsure if a patient has been given a flu vaccination?
- What about patients who have recently been diagnosed with flu?

Next Steps

- Hints & Tips booklet
- Podcasts
 - Eligible populations
 - FAQs
 - Case studies
- Lunch & Learn - Staff