



## Weekly operational update for local general practice

30 October, 2018

Welcome to Insight, Devon Local Medical Committee's short weekly operational update for GPs and practice managers about our work, issues on our radar and key developments in general practice.

We value all feedback – email: [richard.turner@devonlmc.org](mailto:richard.turner@devonlmc.org)

### Flu vaccine orders for 2019/20

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) – the body that advises UK health departments on immunisation – has reviewed the latest evidence on influenza vaccines and issued [advice](#) on the most effective ones for the **2019/2020** season.

However, the JCVI advice is being considered by Public Health England (PHE) and NHS England (NHSE) and guidance for GP surgeries on the appropriate vaccines to order for the 2019/20 season will be published in the annual flu letter, expected in December 2018. Until this letter is published, confirming the recommended vaccines for the 2019/2020 season, GPs are strongly advised not to place any flu vaccine orders – at the very least, if you place a provisional order then ensure you can amend it easily and free of charge, if necessary.

### PHE leaflet for over 65s flu vaccine

PHE has produced a leaflet for patients aged over 65 explaining why this year's adjuvanted trivalent influenza vaccine (aTIV) is the best one for this age group – and why patients may have to wait for their GP practice or pharmacy to have stock. Download the leaflet [here](#). Order it [here](#).

### Local CCGs implement guidance to reduce prescribing of 'over the counter' medicines for minor health conditions

NHSE has issued guidance to reduce prescribing of 'over the counter' (OTC) medicines for minor health conditions which the local clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) have implemented in full.

The guidance advises that OTC medication should not be routinely prescribed in primary care for 35 minor, or self-limiting, conditions. More information about the policy – and links to the leaflets – is available [here](#).

### Referrals to DPT's Single Point of Access

Devon Partnership NHS Trust's (DPT) Single Point of Access (SPA) has been taking on a wider role to manage referrals more efficiently and improve patient outcomes.

The phased roll-out of the service is being carefully managed to mitigate any risks during the transition to the full model – which will see the SPA handling all routine and Crisis Resolution Home Treatment Team (CRHT) referrals. The original intention had been for the SPA to handle CRHT referrals from 29 October, 2018. However, the revised date is now 7 January, 2019. Please continue to direct CRHT referrals to your local CRHTs until this date. There is no change to the referral process for the Depression and Anxiety Service (DAS) – these referrals are not handled by the SPA. From 7 January, 2019 the SPA will become a comprehensive, 24/7 service and will provide call handling support for users of DPT services and their carers who have an 'open' adult or older people's CMHT mental health referral.

Referrals for older people's services, adult services (routine referrals) and the Devon Memory Service (DMS) are being handled by the SPA. Additionally, the SPA is providing an out-of-hour's crisis support call line for people known to DPT.

### Regional Digital Primary Care conference

NHSE's Primary Care Digital Transformation Team will holding a regional conference in Exeter on Tuesday, 4 December, which will examine the clinical benefits and processes from new and emerging technologies in general practice and engagement around the new GPIT Operating Model which is scheduled for publication in April 2019. You can book onto the event [here](#).