

4 August 2017 / Issue 223

## About this bulletin

To minimise the number of emails sent to practices, the Local Regional Team is using this weekly bulletin as its main method of communicating with practice managers covering the 364 practices in Bristol, Somerset, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. The bulletins contain important information for practice managers, which might include requests for information and deadlines, as well as updates on issues relating to GP contracts.

Copies of the bulletins and attachments are available on our website:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/south/info-professional/medical/dcis/gp-bulletin/>

If you have any questions or wish to provide feedback, please contact the Primary Care Team:

[england.primarycaremedical@nhs.net](mailto:england.primarycaremedical@nhs.net)

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## Key Deadlines

CQRS declarations for payment in the same month	9 <sup>th</sup> of each month	Via CQRS
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### • Items for all Practices

#### **Hexavalent Vaccination Training 2017 - for the attention of all immunisers**

There will be a change of the routine immunisation schedule for babies born on or after 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017. To support this change the Screening and Immunisations Team will be running webex training sessions. The training dates are available on the attached Hexavalent Vaccination Training 2017 poster.

#### **Delivery of pertussis and flu vaccination in maternity services across the South West**

The majority of maternity providers across the South West have been successfully commissioned to directly offer both pertussis and flu vaccinations to women. These services are being delivered using a number of different models developed by the providers to achieve this offer. Please see attached for further information and details of the delivery models being adopted by local Trusts.

#### **Cambridge Diabetes Education Programme (CDEP) – Free Online Training now available**

The Cambridge Diabetes Education Programme offers 5 levels that healthcare practitioners can register at according to their role to support revalidation. Details are available on the attached poster.

#### **Withdrawal Of Old Home Oxygen Order Forms From 31 July**

As you are aware the mitigation of risk is paramount to the provision of Home Oxygen Services and the introduction of the new Home Oxygen Order Form (HOOF) supports the management of HOS risk.

Acceptance of old Home Oxygen Order Forms ceased on 31<sup>st</sup> July. Please ensure that all colleagues are made aware that Home Oxygen suppliers will be rejecting old HOOFS from this date. The potential impact of rejected forms to HOS users and colleagues managing hospital discharges in particular needs to be avoided.

Please ensure that this information is widely cascaded to avert system delays.

#### **Improving access for all: reducing inequalities in access to general practice services**

Ensuring everyone can access services on an equal footing is a key priority for the NHS. One of the seven core requirements for implementing improved access, as set out in the [NHS Operational Planning and Contracting Guidance 2017-19](#), is to address issues of inequalities in patients'

experience of accessing general practice, identified by local evidence, and put actions in place to resolve this.

To support commissioners and providers of general practice services to address this, NHS England has produced a [practical resource – Improving Access for all: reducing inequalities in access to general practice services](#) – which aims to promote understanding of groups in the community who are experiencing barriers in accessing services and help to address those barriers as improvements in access to general practice services are implemented.

The resource is intended to provide:

- a guide in assessing local issues, supporting local equality analyses and providing examples of how barriers arise at different points on patient pathway journey, starting at the point where the patient identifies a health problem through to getting appointments and the experience of attending general practice services;
- practical tips on a wide range of issues related to protected characteristics and other groups who experience barriers to healthcare, for example through homelessness;
- quick links to video clips, learning materials for practice staff, case studies, examples of good practice and a wealth of information on NHS England's website.

### **Changes to eligibility for shingles vaccine and actions to improve uptake locally**

The shingles vaccination programme has been in place for the past 4 years. Nationally and regionally uptake of this programme remains low at 50% or lower. Whilst some practices are to be commended for having achieved uptakes that exceed the national average, there is currently very low uptake in some areas and also considerable variation between practices.

Your own data was sent to your practice in an email earlier this week for your information.

It is likely that where there is poor uptake, this may be related to confusion surrounding eligibility for the vaccine and/or a lack of public awareness of the programme. As a result, eligibility criteria have recently been changed nationally and the local Screening and Immunisation Team are currently working on a communication campaign to raise public awareness of this which will go out in local media in the next few weeks.

The attached documents provide details of the changes in eligibility and of new national resources which are available to support the programme.

The Screening and Immunisation Team have also developed a 'Shingles Best Practice Guide' for use by local practices to help improve uptake. The single most important action to improve uptake is to offer the vaccine on a call/recall basis e.g. on the patient's 70<sup>th</sup> /78<sup>th</sup> birthday and to follow up non-responders with a phone call or text. To assist with this, a template 'Shingles Patient Invitation Letter' has been developed for use by practices and both of these resources are attached.

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact the Screening and Immunisation Team at: [england.southwestscrimms@nhs.net](mailto:england.southwestscrimms@nhs.net).

## **Influenza season - important information**

### **How ready are you for the flu season**

As you are aware the flu season is fast approaching and expect that your plans are by now well underway. To identify your state of readiness we would be grateful if you could complete a short survey and return by 25 August 2017. This will help us with our planning and also to understand where we can provide additional support. You will shortly be receiving an e mail requesting your support and a link to the survey (also see link below).

<https://surveys.phe.org.uk/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=14438595>

### **GP influenza resource pack/toolkit**

The GP resource/toolkit is now available via the attached link. This includes a checklist for GP practices

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/south/info-professional/public-health/immunisations/influenza/>

**Screening & Immunisation Team enquiries:** [england.southwestscrimms@nhs.net](mailto:england.southwestscrimms@nhs.net)

## **General practice nursing workforce for the future**

Our Chief Nursing Officer Professor Jane Cummings has launched a ten point action plan to develop the roles that general practice nurses have in transforming care and making the NHS fit for the future. [Read about how the new plan](#), backed by £15 million investment, will prioritise where improvements are needed most.

- **Items for Bristol, North Somerset, Somerset and South Gloucestershire Practices only**

None

- **Items for Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Practices only**

**Possible increase in demand for GP services – 8th August**

**PHE warn and inform tuberculosis letter will be sent to 750 staff who work at Kensey Foods Launceston**

Public Health England is following up two people diagnosed with pulmonary tuberculosis (TB) who worked at Kensey Foods in Launceston over Spring / Summer of 2016. They no longer work at the bakery but were recently identified as having worked there while possibly infectious. They have received treatment, are no longer infectious and are making a good recovery.

PHE is going to send a warn and inform letter to all workers at the factory (approx. 750 staff) on 8<sup>th</sup> August. The letter gives the signs and symptoms of TB and explains that the risk of transmission is small and people need to be in close and lengthy contact with a person during their infectious period to catch it. However, if they have signs and symptoms they should consult their doctor.

A public health risk assessment of the workplace has been undertaken and there is no need to carry out any specific testing/screening for staff/workers but as a precautionary measure we are informing the workers of the signs and symptoms of tuberculosis and advising them to seek advice

from their GP if they are concerned about their symptoms. Workers commute from a wide catchment over the east of Cornwall and the west and north of Devon, including Okehampton.

It is also important to note that a high proportion of the workers originate from countries with high rates of tuberculosis. Therefore, this may increase the likelihood that they have had a previous exposure in their country of origin.

If you have any queries please contact South West (South) Health Protection Team on **0300 303 8162 (option 1, option 1)** quoting ref: **HPZ 176932**