

GP Bulletin

24 November 2017 / Issue 239

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 360 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

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Key Deadlines

CQRS declarations for payment in the same month	9 th of each month	Via CQRS
2017/18 eDEC	Over a six week period: from 16 October to 29 November 2017	Primary Care Webtool: www.primarycare.nhs.uk

- **Items for all Practices**

GP electronic annual practice declaration (eDEC) 2017/18

Please see the attached FAQ information regarding this year's GP electronic annual practice declaration (eDEC), which is currently open for submission via the Primary Care Webtool: www.primarycare.nhs.uk until **Wednesday, 29th November 2017**. For any support regarding permissions required, please contact us via the generic box: england.primarycaremedical@nhs.net

Please note that submission of the eDEC is **mandatory** for all practices. Practices that have not yet made the submission this year should ensure that this is completed by 29 November 2017. Thanks to all those practices that have already submitted.

Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Programme for Social Care Workers 2017/18

Further to the Special Bulletin issued on Monday 20 November 2017, this is a reminder for Practices to confirm whether you wish to sign-up to provide this service, please email england.primarycaremedical@nhs.net confirming your sign-up intention by **Friday 24 November 2017**. The service can be offered to eligible registered patients as soon as the Practice has registered their intention, by email, to provide the service.

Please find attached copy of a letter [Publication Gateway Number: 07417] which has been sent to the health and social care sector to confirm that social care workers that offer direct patient/client care, working in England, are now eligible for free vaccination as part of the extension to the seasonal flu immunisation programme in 2017/18. This is the communication we advised you on 20 November 2017 that we would send to social care organisations to enable them to cascade information to their stakeholders and workforce about the scheme. We hope that locally this has given practices staff and pharmacy contractors sometime to prepare to deliver the scheme by signing up to the service and PGDs.

For more information visit this section of the NHS England website: www.england.nhs.uk/flu. Should you have any queries about this or the content of the attachment please email S7a public health programme team (england.phs7apmo@nhs.net).

We will be issuing further communications to the Local Authorities, on Monday 27 November 2017, to advise which Practices will be providing this service, so that they can direct social care staff appropriately. So to ensure your Practice is included, the Practice's intention must be registered by the end of 24 November 2017.

Improving Access to General Practice: Next Steps Webinars

NHS England is hosting a series of webinars on the next steps for improving access to general practice, aimed at general practice staff and commissioners. These will repeat content covered through earlier webinars, including the seven core requirements and what this means for those working in general practice, key messages and frequently asked questions, and will provide an update on the range of resources that have been made available nationally to support rollout.

The next webinar will take place on [Friday 24 November at 9.30-11am](#) with further webinars, repeating the same content, taking place on:

[29 November at 1.30-2.30pm](#)

[6 December at 9-10am](#)

[11 December at 3-4pm](#)

[19 Dec 12-1pm](#)

NHS England will also be hosting a number of subject specific webinars. These will initially focus on procurement and communications in relation to improving access. The dates for these webinars are as below.

[Procurement: Friday 1 December at 12.00 – 1.00pm](#)

[Communications: Wednesday 29 November at 9.30am – 10.30am](#)

NHS England will also be hosting a number of inequalities in access webinars as follows:

[Friday 24 November 2 – 3pm](#)

[Wednesday 6 December 2 – 3pm](#)

- **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 – weeks of 28 Nov and 5 December 2017

PHE TB screening invitations and warn and inform letters will be sent to staff who work at St Merryn Foods St Austell on 28 November for screening clinics on 5 and 7 December.

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

A public health risk assessment of the workplace has been undertaken and they have decided to screen co-workers who worked on the same shifts as the case. On 5 and 7 December. PHE is going to send screening invitations to over 200 employees for clinics 5 & 7 December and probably further clinics after Christmas. A warn and inform letter will also be sent out to all workers at the factory (an additional 250 staff) on the same day, explaining that if they have been classified as a close contact and need screening they will also have received a screening invitation. Otherwise, no action is necessary unless they have suspicious symptoms. 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 GP.

Workers commute from a wide catchment throughout Cornwall and West Devon

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**