

GP Bulletin

15 December 2017 / Issue 242

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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- Items for Bristol, North Somerset, Somerset and South Gloucestershire Practices only
 - None
- Items for Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Practices only
 - None

Key Deadlines

CQRS declarations for payment in the same month	9 th of each month	Via CQRS
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• Items for all Practices

Access to Primary Care over Christmas and New Year

Practices will be aware that there is a significant national publicity/focus on directing the public to use primary care services over the Christmas and New Year period. The public web-link is www.nhs.uk/GPaccess which you will see asks patients to contact their practice for details. Could practices please therefore review and where necessary update telephone messages and web-sites so that patients are clear about when the practice will be open between 22 December and 8 January and how to access primary care services at other times. In most cases practices will be advising patients to contact NHS111/OOH. In addition/ where appropriate it will be helpful if you can add locally specific information for example:

- Details of the service available and how to get an appointment for extended hours or (where applicable) improved access
- Other local services as appropriate for example walk-in centres, Urgent Care Centres, Minor Injury Units or pharmacies

Thank you for the planning within your practices (eg to prioritise urgent appointments and services) to help meet the demand from your patients over what is always a busy time.

Phone Message Advice

Following a tragic incident involving the death of a child can practices please review the message on their answerphone to ensure it clearly states what to do for both urgent and non-urgent calls.

Devon doctors have provided an example of their own message which has been approved by the NHS England lawyer as suitable.

Narrative from PDF above.

Gateway letter for circulation to general practice and pharmacy

Colleagues in general practice and community pharmacy are asked to please note the content of the attached letter, which is being circulated across England by our Controlled Drugs Accountable Officers. This concerns the need for clear dosing on controlled drugs prescriptions following a coroner's regulation 28 report, and also concerns the expansion of the Electronic Prescription Service to include schedule 2 and 3 controlled drugs.

Appendix 5: British Geriatric Society advice on antiviral prescribing

Advice from The British Geriatrics Society Community Geriatrics SIG, November 2017 about consideration of renal impairment in prescribing of antivirals in localised community outbreaks of seasonal influenza:

In situations where an individual has a documented renal function within the last 6 months indicating no renal impairment, then they can be prescribed the standard dose of antivirals. For those individuals with a known renal impairment and where the prescriber has access to the renal function results in an emergency outbreak, then they can be prescribed an adjusted dose according to existing guidance.

The BGS recommends that when the renal function is unknown it should be assumed to be impaired and dose adjusted accordingly.

However, in those emergency outbreak responses where there is no information about the presence or absence of renal impairment (or lack of available routine renal function results from the past 6 months), there is a high likelihood of abnormal renal function in care home residents, so we would recommend a reduced daily dose of oseltamivir in all care home residents.

This would be for a dose appropriate to CrCl of 31-60 mL/min.

We would not recommend routine measurement of renal function prior to treatment due to the logistical challenges of collecting bloods en masse in care home populations and the likely delays introduced by waiting for lab results to return in the community.

Where time permits, checking renal function in specific patients at high risk of significant renal impairment, for example those on high dose diuretics, may be useful.

Further guidance for antiviral prescribing doses in outbreaks is on page 28 here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/664972/Influenza-like_illness_in_care_homes.pdf

REGISTRATION: Fully-funded Coaching for GPs

Following the earlier success of the national coaching programme, **NHS England** are offering fully funded one-to-one tailored coaching for GPs. You will gain **three 90-minute confidential sessions** by **highly experienced and qualified coaches** to help you think through where you are and where you want to be in today's challenging and changing environment. This forward-looking, action-orientated, positive and personal approach will help you identify goals for the next steps that can give you satisfaction and fulfilment, and support you to make them happen. This programme is open to all GPs and we have 300 places to fill in total for 2017-2018 cohort.

Places are limited on a first-come-first-serve basis by **31 January 2018**. [Click here to register your interest here.](#)

This coaching is offered to GPs only. We would be grateful if you can help cascade this information to your team. For further questions, please contact our procured provider: admin@beyond-consultants.co.uk

Pharmacy rotas for the Christmas & New Year bank holidays

The Pharmacy rotas for the Christmas & New Year bank holidays have now been circulated to all Pharmacies and Area Managers, GP practices, Dental surgeries, Hospitals, Hospices, Out of Hours services, Medical trusts, Local Pharmacy Committees, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Local Authorities, Drug & Alcohol Services and various NHS England team leads. These will also be

available to view or download from Monday 18th December on the NHS England South West Pharmacy webpage which can be accessed via the link below:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/south/info-professional/pharm-info/sw-pharm/>

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

None

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

None