

# GP Bulletin

Date 19 January 2018 / Issue 247

## 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 371 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 |
|---|-------------------------------|----------|

- **Items for all Practices**

### **Use of EPS for acute urgent prescriptions**

Please see the attached Well Pharmacy Prevention of Future Death's Notice in reference to the use of EPS for acute urgent prescriptions.

### **Keep your vaccines healthy – print out and keep poster for vaccine storage**

Over recent months there have been a number of incidents of large scale vaccine wastage either because of fridge failures or a break in the cold chain that has made the vaccines unsafe for use. Often, overstocking of vaccine fridges can make vaccine wastage very high.

Public Health England recommends ordering when you have 2 to 4 weeks' worth of stock remaining and making more regular, but smaller, vaccine orders to prevent over-ordering. Ensuring that you rotate stock, with the shortest-date vaccines at the front, will also help to make sure that vaccines are not wasted.

Public Health England has recently produced a handy poster to support those working with vaccines to maintain the cold chain and help to keep vaccines safe for use. Please see this link to view the poster:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/671373/Cold\\_chain\\_vaccine\\_fridge\\_control\\_poster.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/671373/Cold_chain_vaccine_fridge_control_poster.pdf)

Why not print out the poster and stick it to your vaccine fridge as a quick reminder, or have the poster on display next to the computer you use for ordering?

Remember, all cold chain incidents should be reported on ImmForm and you can seek guidance from the PHE South West Screening & Immunisation Team by emailing [england.southwestscrimms@nhs.net](mailto:england.southwestscrimms@nhs.net)

For more detailed guidance on maintaining the cold chain, please see Chapter 3 of the Green Book 'Storage, distribution and disposal of vaccines':

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/storage-distribution-and-disposal-of-vaccines-the-green-book-chapter-3>

### **Demand and capacity support for general practices: events**

NHS England is offering support to help general practices and primary care teams to gain a better understanding of their current demand and how the available capacity (i.e. workforce) can be better used to manage this locally. This will cover areas such as an introduction to the theory of demand and capacity, practical solutions to managing demand and working at scale to widen access to general practice. GPs, practice teams and CCGs are invited to attend demand and

capacity events taking place in their region from January 2018. [Further details are available on the NHS England website.](#)

### **Improving Access to General Practice: Buddying Network**

Please see attached a flyer promoting the Improving Access buddying network

### **Pharmacies commissioned to hold stocks of antivirals for flu treatment and prophylaxis**

Please note that we have requested those pharmacies in the South West of England from which we commission the Specialist Medicines Local Enhanced Service to order and maintain stocks of antiviral medication as per the attached communications.

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

None

- **Items for North, East and West Devon Practices only**

None

- **Items for South Devon and Torbay Practices only - CCG Delegation Light New delegated light arrangement with SD&T practices**

As part of moving towards fully delegated commissioning, the SD&T CCG are working in collaboration with NHSE to provide GP contract commissioning from 1st January 2018 to one of “delegated light”. Therefore, the CCG is now the principle contact for contract variations, temporary practice closures. The CCG have shared a full list of the changes to responsibilities with Practice Managers. Formal liability for primary care contracts will remain with NHS England, with whom the CCG will continue to work closely.

For any requests, please can practices direct all queries to [devon.primarycare@nhs.net](mailto:devon.primarycare@nhs.net)

### **Current outbreaks in schools in South Devon**

Please find attached 2 letters from our Public Health England (South West) colleagues concerning current influenza-like illness outbreaks in schools in South Devon-

- Influenza-Like Illness at The Grove Primary School School, Totnes
- Influenza-Like Illness at Warberry Academy, Torquay

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

None