

GP Bulletin

Date 20 July 2018 / Issue 273

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 350 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
Maternity, paternity, parental or sickness absence	Last working day of each month	Via email to england.primarycaremedical@nhs.net

- **Items for all Practices**

Use of Varicella Zoster Immunoglobulin (VZIG) in pregnancy during supply shortage

In response to a significant national shortage of varicella zoster immunoglobulin (VZIG) due to manufacturing issues, from 6th July 2018, VZIG will only be issued to susceptible pregnant women who have had a significant exposure to chickenpox or shingles in the first 20 weeks of pregnancy. As the majority of adults in England are immune to chickenpox, this change is likely to affect a very small proportion of the antenatal population.

This urgent advice has been considered and agreed between Public Health England (PHE) experts and the chair of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation varicella subcommittee. This group have also advised that, based on extensive safety evidence, pregnant women who are exposed after 20 weeks, should be offered the oral anti-viral drug, aciclovir (800mg four times a day from day 7 to 14 after exposure).

Further information and guidance can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/724859/PHE_VZIG_interim_guidance_for_GPs_obstetricians_and_midwives.pdf

Seeking GPs to participate in short-term community pharmacy services study

Please see attached three documents for further information

BCG update

Please see attached document for further information regarding the BCG transition to licensed vaccine

Identification of carers in GP practices – a good practice document

Around one in ten patients in every GP practice will be a carer. A document published by the Carers Trust highlights some of the good practice of identification of carers in general practice. It aims to encourage GP practices with less developed methods to identifying carers, to develop these to allow them to identify carers, and enable carers to get the support they need.

https://professionals.carers.org/sites/default/files/identification_of_carers_in_gp_practices.pdf

GP Contract Technical Requirements for 2018/19 – Version 2 published

NHS Employers have now published version two of the 'Technical Requirements for 2018/19 GMS Contract Changes' document. Version two includes additional clinical codes for dementia and influenza – see the version control page for details of changes. The document is available to download from the NHS Employers website (on the right-hand side of the page).

Please make sure that you use this version when reviewing and checking coding requirements, to ensure that automated extractions are correct.

<http://www.nhsemployers.org/your-workforce/primary-care-contacts/general-medical-services/gms-contract-changes/gms-contract-changes-201819>

HPV Statement

This statement sets out the conclusions of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) on extending the HPV vaccination programme to adolescent boys in the UK. The statement is attached for your information and can also be found at the following weblink <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/jcvi-statement-extending-the-hpv-vaccination-programme-conclusions>

Survey reminder: Readiness for the 2018/19 flu season – Help us to help you

Last year we received a really good response from practices across the South West identifying the preparation they were putting in place for the upcoming flu season. This year, the geography that the Public Health England South West team covers has increased, and we'd like to take this opportunity to find out more about the plans that GP practices have to get ready for the 2018/19 flu season and to identify ways in which we can support you.

Your responses help us to form our plans and to find the best ways to support you to ensure that eligible patients are offered vaccination and that flu vaccination uptake continues to improve.

Link to the survey:

<https://surveys.phe.org.uk/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=l4KH8o763>

This survey should take around 15 minutes to complete. **Please submit your response by Friday 3rd August 2018.**

The member of staff at your practice who has a lead role in flu or vaccinations would be best placed to complete this survey. We want to help to identify your training needs and find ways we can support your practice to deliver flu.

If you have any queries please contact the Public Health England Screening & Immunisation team: england.swscreeningandimms@nhs.net

- **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 CCG, and Eastern locality of NEW Devon CCG- CCG Delegation Light**

AAA screening

AAA screening is routinely offered to all men registered in their practice. They may get invited to a local community hospital or their own surgery. Where uptake is low it is preferable to invite to their own practice and we greatly appreciate the practices who provide us with space to do this. In the vast majority of cases we only need to visit once or twice a year for one day only.

We suggest they encourage men aged 66 or over to self-refer to the NHS abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) screening programme if they have not already been screened and they have any of the following risk factors:

- o hypertension
- o they smoke or used to smoke
- o family history of AAA
- o chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- o coronary, cerebrovascular or peripheral arterial disease
- o hyperlipidaemia

Anyone with a family history of AAA should be screened 5 years before the age of the affected relative. Women can be referred to medical imaging but we can see any man >65 yrs. Men can self-refer by calling 0183 6554441.

The national AAA screening programme manages all surveillance. We do however advise that patients should have their BP regularly monitored by the practice and it is recommended that patients with an aortic aneurysm should commence/continue antiplatelet and statin therapy unless there are contradictions.

Patients can contact us directly 01803 655441 for advice and appointments.

If they know men may need extra help to attend, e.g. learning disability, we can provide lots of support once we know this.

For attention of GPs in Plymouth

An outbreak of suspected scarlet fever and chickenpox at a Nursery in Devonport, Plymouth. Concomitant infection of scarlet fever and chickenpox may lead to serious complications including invasive Group A Streptococcal infection. The Health Protection Team are holding a vaccination clinic on Friday 20th July at the neighbouring Children's

Centre to offer chickenpox vaccination to all staff and children at the nursery who have not already had chickenpox. Local GPs are asked to be vigilant for both chickenpox and scarlet fever if you are assessing any of the children or staff from this nursery. Further details are provided in the attached letter.

- **Items for Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Practices only**
None