

GP Bulletin

Date 07 September 2018 / Issue 280

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

Contents

- Key Deadlines
- Items for all Practices
 - Information regarding Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)
 - Developing Primary Care Networks
 - Important Changes to Cervical Sample Taker Register
 - Referral to Specialist Services: Patient Leaflet
- 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 – CCG Delegation Light
 - None
- Items for Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Practices only
 - None

Key Deadlines

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| CQRS 2018/19 Service Offers Sign-up | ASAP | Via CQRS |
| CQRS declarations for payment in the same month | 9 th of each month | Via CQRS |
| General Practice Extended Access Collection | 3 rd – 28 th September | via the Primary Care Web Tool |
| Seasonal Influenza Vaccination programme sign-up | By Friday 21 st September 2018 | Via email to england.primarycaremedical@nhs.net |
| Maternity, paternity, parental or sickness absence | Last working day of each month | Via email to england.primarycaremedical@nhs.net |

• Items for all Practices

Information regarding Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)

MERS-CoV is a respiratory virus first identified in September 2012 in a patient from the Middle East. Since then, cases have continued to occur, primarily from within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The total number of laboratory confirmed cases detected in the UK is now five – three imported from the Middle East and two as a result of onward transmission from a previous case whilst in the UK.

Healthcare professionals are advised to remain vigilant for severe unexplained respiratory illness occurring in anyone who has recently travelled in to the UK from the Middle East. Particularly at the current time when there is increased travel due to Hajj, though it's important to note this particular case had not travelled from Hajj.

Anyone who does show symptoms of MERS-CoV after travelling to the Middle East should contact health services through the usual routes – by **calling** NHS 111 or their GP. Typically MERS-CoV symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat and shortness of breath.

If your practice is contacted by a patient and you are concerned about MERS-CoV, please discuss these patients with an infectious disease consultant / virologist in secondary care to coordinate a risk assessment OR your local Public Health England (PHE) health protection team. Please, where possible, advise patients with suspected MERS-CoV against sitting in communal spaces or healthcare waiting rooms, in order to prevent onward transmission.

General travel health advice for travellers going to the Middle East is available from NaTHNaC's website [TravelHealthPro](#).

MERS guidance issued by PHE for clinicians can be accessed from the: [Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus \(MERS-CoV\): clinical management and guidance](#)

Mike Wade (Deputy Director of Health Protection – PHE South West Centre)

Developing Primary Care Networks

NHS England is hosting a series of regional workshops for primary care teams, commissioners, STP leads and other local stakeholders, focusing on the development of primary care networks and the next steps.

The NHS England South West – South event (Cornwall, Devon, Somerset and Dorset) will be held in collaboration with South West Academic Health Science Network on Wednesday 17 October at the Sandy Park Conference Centre in Exeter <https://www.sandypark.co.uk/> The programme for the event is attached.

The event will provide an opportunity to:

- Connecting and sharing with the emerging networks across the 4 STPs to understand how this way of working can benefit practices, patients and staff.
- Learn more about primary care networks from a national perspective.
- Providing an opportunity to explore the real or perceived barriers to development.
- Speed Networking Session to enable more detailed exploration of areas of special interest.
- Understanding what support will be needed, at a local, regional and national level to help our networks develop.

To book a place <https://www.events.england.nhs.uk/events/developing-primary-care-networks-in-the-south-west>

Important Changes to Cervical Sample Taker Register

Attached is a letter informing you of important changes to the way Cervical Sample Taker information is to be stored and accessed. All records are being moved onto a web-based single regional database which will enable you as Practice Manager to be able to monitor which healthcare professionals within the practice are trained sample takers and to identify which sample takers require update training so this can be completed in a timely manner.

Referral to Specialist Services: Patient Leaflet

Last year, following changes to the NHS Standard Contract, NHS England with the support of the BMA and NAPP (National Association for Patient Participation) produced a leaflet for patients about what to expect when they are referred to a specialist.

Please find below a link where you can source copies of the leaflets in several different versions including easy read, BSL and a number of languages.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/gp/gpfv/workload/interface/resources/>

We also have limited surplus printed leaflets, which are available for general practices to order from www.orderline.dh.gov.uk, product code PRL-LEAFLET. Practices can also download [an A4, black-and-white version for easy local printing.](#)

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