

GP Bulletin

Date 21 September 2018 / Issue 282

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 2018/19 Service Offers Sign-up	ASAP	Via CQRS
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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 for Health and Social Care Workers 2018/19 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

Communication from the DHSC on the supply of Adrenaline auto injectors

The supply situation for the EpiPen Juniors has worsened over the last week and Mylan are now out of stock. It is expected that supplies will remain constrained for several months. This has been escalated within the company and through the MHRA. The DHSC are working with the MHRA and company to see if the expiry date can be extended. To support patient access to the product during this supply constraint, healthcare professionals are encouraged to manage prescription renewals diligently. It is important to note that when validating the expiry date of an adrenaline auto-injector, the product expires on the last day of the month indicated.

EpiPen supply update- info provided as of 18th Sep

- DHSC has been in contact with the UK supplier of EpiPens, Mylan, for several months regarding the ongoing supply issues affecting this product.
- Mylan have informed us that due to manufacturing delays from their contract manufacturer, Meridian Medical Technologies, a Pfizer company, there continue to be supply constraints of EpiPen Adrenaline Auto-Injectors in the UK.

0.3mg Adrenaline Auto-injectors:

- Currently supplies are available of EpiPen 0.3mg via a stock management process. Pharmacies are allocated stock on a prescription-only basis and can place orders for up to a maximum of two EpiPen 0.3mg Auto-Injectors per prescription.
- Also Pfizer recently made available to Mylan a limited volume of EpiPen 0.3mg Auto-Injectors that will expire in February 2019. This supply is not subject to the current prescription validation process, as outlined above, and will be available for pharmacists to order and hold in stock.
- Further information regarding this stock and a statement from Mylan is available via the following link: <http://www.epipen.co.uk/>
- There are two alternative adrenaline auto-injector products available in the UK, Emerade and Jext.
- Supplies of both presentations are currently available but may be limited due to the ongoing EpiPen supply issues.
- Emerade also supply a 0.5mg adrenaline auto-injector.

0.15mg Adrenaline Auto-injectors:

- This issue is now also affecting EpiPen Jr 0.15mg Adrenaline Auto-Injector in the UK
- Mylan recently informed us that EpiPen Jr 0.15mg Adrenaline Auto-Injectors is now out of stock until the next shipment arrives, estimated to be by the end of September.
- Due to the supply situation with EpiPen Jr 0.15mg, supplies of both Jext and Emerade 0.15mg adrenaline auto-injectors have been rapidly depleted and are currently unavailable. However, additional supplies of Jext are expected early next week and Emerade by the end of September. However, supplies will be limited and the overall situation is likely to be constrained until the Mylan situation has resolved.

Further information:

- Mylan have shared a statement, which is available on their website www.epipen.co.uk.
- Mylan is working closely with Pfizer to increase production and anticipates supply will stabilise in the fourth quarter of 2018; however, it is important to note that currently supply from Pfizer continues to vary and, as such, may not always be available for pharmacies to order.
- Further supplies of both Jext and Emerade are currently expected by the end of September.
- We are in contact with the manufacturers of these alternative devices to keep them updated on the situation. They both have additional deliveries of both adult and paediatric presentations arriving over the coming weeks and they are working to expedite future deliveries and bring additional stock to the UK where possible.
- During this period if patients are unable to obtain a supply of their usual adrenaline auto-injector we would encourage patients to speak to their healthcare provider about alternate adrenaline auto-injectors. Further advice is also available via the Anaphylaxis UK website: <https://www.anaphylaxis.org.uk/2018/08/09/updated-statement-from-mylan-on-the-availability-of-epipen-0-3mg-and-epipen-jr-0-15mg-adrenaline-auto-injector/>
- We are also working with Mylan and the MHRA to determine if it is possible to extend the expiry of certain batches of Epipens, as has been done with selected batches of Epipen 0.3mg in the US, to help alleviate the situation in the short term.
- We are continuing to work closely with all the manufacturers of adrenaline auto-injectors, the MHRA, Anaphylaxis UK and other stakeholders to try to resolve these issues and improve the situation where possible.

NHS Routine Immunisation Schedule

The latest version of the NHS Routine Immunisation Schedule has been published this week. Further information is available by following the link and on the attached document.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-complete-routine-immunisation-schedule>

Guide to help GP practices register more students to use GP online services

NHS England has published a booklet aimed particularly at practices in student areas and includes information on how they can encourage more students to access their healthcare online.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/gp-online-services-promoting-to-students/>

An update on SNOMED codes for the flu vaccination of care workers

All suppliers will have the three codes for the care worker programme and the specific flu vaccine in their system by the end of October; a number of users will have the codes available now depending on which supplier and where they are in the roll-out schedule.

The clinical guidance we have received is that to record the specific vaccine provided, users should record that a flu vaccine has been administered (using one of the codes in the GMS Technical requirements document), plus the vaccine given.

An [updated version](#) of the GMS technical requirements with the associated Read codes for the listed SNOMED CT codes is now available and aligns to Version 3 now published on the NHS Employers website. The document is attached here for ease of reference.

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

Free one day 'Self-care and Personal Development' workshop

Dr Andrew Tresidder, is hosting a free one day 'Self-Care and Personal Development' workshop on 1st November in Donyatt, South Somerset. Flyer is attached for reference.

- **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**

Cervical screening backlog: Message for GP practices in Cornwall, Plymouth and West Devon

You may be aware that waiting times for the laboratory-processing of cervical cytology slides have been rising around the country, primarily because of staffing shortages. As a result, a national mitigation programme is in place to support local services that are struggling as the NHS prepares for a switch to primary HPV testing by late 2019, which promises faster and more-accurate results.

In the South West, the lab most affected by staffing issues is at the Royal Cornwall Hospital in Truro, which serves Cornwall, Plymouth and practices in Tavistock, Yelverton, South Brent, Ivybridge, Modbury, Kingsbridge and Salcombe. The backlog now affects around 5,000 women, with waits of up to nine weeks for the results for their smear tests.

Although mitigation work this year has limited the rise, RCHT has now decided it will be unable to offer a screening service after March 2019.

As a result, NHS England as commissioner has negotiated the early introduction of primary HPV testing, with samples to be tested by the labs at Exeter (RCHT catchment) and Bristol (Derriford catchment). This will allow RCHT to focus on tackling the existing backlog, as well as offering the improved test earlier than anticipated to women in the affected areas. Histology and colposcopy are unaffected.

The aim is to introduce the new service from late November 2018. For primary care, this will mean that:

- The sample-taking process is largely unchanged, though some additional online training will be provided for sample-takers and patients will need to be informed about the change to HPV testing. Further guidance and information will be issued from the laboratories to sample-takers in due course
- Transport networks are unchanged, with existing courier arrangements remaining in place (though different sample bags will be introduced)
- Practices that have previously had access to electronic requesting will revert to a paper-based process as an interim measure until the national procurement concludes in Dec 2019; this is due to technical issues with IT systems that are beyond local control
- Although practices are likely to receive paper results letters, electronic transmission of results to the national screening database for patient outcome letters and Open Exeter reporting will still continue

It is important to note that these are interim arrangements to sustain and improve the service to women until the national HPV screening programme goes live from Dec 2019.

All parties are working closely with current lab providers and a range of stakeholders to ensure the continuation of a clinically-safe cervical screening service for the local population.

Please also note that the highly-successful HPV vaccination programme for 12- and 13-year-old girls is unaffected by these changes.

We include below information for practice staff who take smears, to support conversations with women either when they come for their appointment or if they make contact subsequently with concerns about delays.

Practices to share with smear-takers and GPs:

Delays with cervical samples being processed at Cornwall laboratory:

You will be aware that there is currently a delay with cervical samples being processed at Cornwall laboratory, which services Cornwall, Plymouth and West Devon. The time taken for reporting is currently around **nine weeks**. Extended waits are also being reported elsewhere in the country, with some longer than here.

NHS England has now agreed a plan to reduce long waits by introducing earlier than planned the new system of primary HPV testing for women in Cornwall, Plymouth and West Devon, as this is quicker and more accurate

Women in other parts of the South West will be moved onto the new system next year, in line with a national programme and once lab capacity has increased.

In the meantime, please use this information to support conversations with women:

1. When they come for a smear test
2. If they raise concerns subsequently about any delay in receiving results

Managing patient expectations at the time of the smear test:

Because of the delay, Cornwall laboratory have been experiencing an increasing number of calls from concerned patients and practice nurses, enquiring where results are and hoping that samples have not been lost in transit.

Please could sample-takers and admin staff ensure patients are aware that it could take up to nine weeks before they receive a result and make every effort to reassure them, to help reduce any unnecessary anxiety?

Please could you also advise reception staff/sample-takers that due to governance and confidentiality issues the lab is unable to advise patients or to provide any information about their sample?

Patients must not phone the laboratory.

To ensure that practices are aware of the latest position, the Cornwall laboratory is putting the expected waiting time for results on the smear kit order emails and the smear kit package labels. To ensure you are up to date, can relevant staff please check the emails and packaging labels, so the expected turnaround time can be shared with women who come for their smear tests and with colleagues.

Women who have follow-up smear tests, rather than routine smears, are being prioritised by the labs to expedite reporting and so should not experience such long delays.

The system will be changing for women in Cornwall, Plymouth and West Devon later this year, with the introduction of a quicker and better lab test that should also help reduce the current backlog. This is known as primary HPV testing, which has been shown to bring real benefits when piloted elsewhere in the NHS.

This will help reduce the backlog at the Cornwall lab as well as providing a better, more-accurate system that will benefit all women in the longer term.

The new test will then be introduced across the South West by the end of 2019, as part of a national programme.

Conversations if worried women contact the surgery about delayed results:

Our clinical advice is that the risk from the current delay is low, because:

- The screening test is not a cancer check
- Instead, it is designed to spot any potential pre-cancerous changes so they can be investigated
- Cervical cancer generally takes years to develop, which is why smear tests are only offered every three or five years

- In the event that any pre-cancerous changes in the cervix are identified, the delay that we are experiencing at the moment is extremely unlikely to adversely affect treatment, if needed, or the outcome for patients

Any women undergoing follow-up tests are being prioritised.

The system will be changing later this year for women in Cornwall, Plymouth and West Devon, with the introduction of a quicker and better lab test that should also help reduce the current backlog. This is known as primary HPV testing, which has been shown to bring real benefits when piloted elsewhere in the NHS.

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Wording on test kits provided to practices by Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust:

The testing kits sent out from RCHT lab include the following information, with lab staff filling in the box to show the expected turnaround time for results:

	Number of Kits	
	Additional requests:	<input type="text"/>
	Vial batch	Brush batch
Expected patient waiting time for results (weeks)		<input type="text"/>