

GP Bulletin

Date 21 December 2018 / Issue 295

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

Key Deadlines

2018/2019 Dispensary Services Quality Scheme submission	11 January 2018	Via email to england.pharmacysouthwest@nhs.net
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
Maternity, paternity, parental or sickness absence	Last working day of each month	Via email to england.primarycaremedical@nhs.net For BNSSG practices, via email to bnssg.pc.contracts@nhs.net

• Items for all Practices

Multidrug resistant *Shigella sonnei* circulating in UK and USA

Public Health England (PHE) has identified and is investigating a highly drug resistant strain of *Shigella sonnei* which has been isolated in 17 cases in the UK and a further 9 cases in the USA. This includes 2 cases in the South West region which are currently being followed up by the Health Protection Team using an enhanced surveillance questionnaire. The antibiotic resistance profile suggests that first line agents (including quinolones, azithromycin and ceftriaxone) may not be effective in treating infection. Please find attached a more comprehensive briefing note, titled Final BN MDR Shigella, which we are sharing with you in full – please ensure that you brief your team, particularly with regard to the specific guidance for clinicians summarised below:

- Clinicians managing cases of community acquired diarrhoea should be aware of this predominantly adult male cluster, ask for sexual and travel history where appropriate and request appropriate tests (i.e. faecal PCR and culture)
- Cases may be directed towards the NHS choices [web page](#) on dysentery for further information
- Specific guidance on preventing sexual transmission of *Shigella* in men who have sex with men is available as a set of posters and leaflets on the phe.gov.uk website [here](#)

If you would like further advice with regard to this briefing note, please contact the South West Health Protection Team on 0300 30 38 162 (option 1 then option 1).

RCGP guidance on cannabis-based medicines and products

The RCGP has published advice to support GPs to have informed conversations with patients about medicinal cannabis should the issue arise during consultations. Please see [here](#) for further details

Message from the South West Flu Group

As we head towards Christmas we just wanted to take the opportunity to give our sincere thanks to all the practices and partners across the South West who have worked tirelessly on the seasonal flu vaccination programme to date. We know that this year has had its challenges and practices have worked incredibly hard to pull everything together to ensure patients are given the best chance of keeping healthy and protecting themselves over the winter season.

As we head into January flu season itself will only just be starting in earnest, but we hope that your hard work will ensure that fewer patients succumb to the sometimes devastating effects of flu.

There will still be opportunity in the new year to encourage your patients to attend for flu vaccination, remember: 'it's not too late to vaccinate'.

On behalf of the South West Flu North and South Groups – thank you – and we wish you a Happy Flu (free) Year! England.swscreeningandimms@nhs.net

PAG bites November 2018

Please see the attached snippets from the GP Performance Advisory Group meeting in the South West

Registration Process for Gender Reassignment

It is important that practices are aware of the steps that need to be taken when a patient changes gender. Following the process will ensure continued patient care and ensure there isn't an impact on your practice payments.

Please note: Patients may request to change gender on their patient record at any time and do not need to have undergone any form of gender reassignment treatment in order to do so.

When a patient changes gender, they are given a new NHS number and must be registered as a new patient at your practice. All previous medical information relating to the patient needs to be transferred into a newly created medical record. When the patient informs the practice that they wish to change gender, the practice must inform the patient that this will involve a new NHS number being issued for them, which is not reversible. To revert back to their original gender, they would receive a third NHS number. The practice should confirm this has been discussed with the patient when notifying PCSE.

The process is as follows:

- GP practice notifies PCSE that a patient wishes to change gender via the [enquiries form](#). The practice should include the patient's name and NHS number in the notification to PCSE, plus confirmation that they have discussed with the patient that this will involve the creation of a new NHS number
- PCSE sends the GP practice a deduction notification for the patient and emails the main contact we hold for the practice (if available) the new details for the patient
- GP practice accepts the deduction and registers the patient using the new details provided by PCSE. Important: Do not update the patient's original record with their new NHS number. If this happens they will not be registered and will miss out on continuity of care
- PCSE sends a new patient medical record envelope with the patient's updated details to the GP practice
- GP practice creates new patient record using new details, and transfers all previous medical information from the original medical record. Any information relating to the patient's previous identity should not be included in the new record.
- If the gender is being re-assigned from male to female, the screening team will contact the practice for no cervix confirmation
- If the gender is being re-assigned from female to male, screening will become the responsibility of the practice.

It is important that practices complete the new registration for the patient within five working days to ensure no interruption to patient care.

This information has been taken from the PCSE website. For further information please click [here](#)

Next Generation GP – Applications welcome

This item originally appeared in GP Bulletin 293 7th December and this is a reminder:

'Next Generation GP' is a programme for emerging leaders in general practice designed by, and for, a group of early-career GPs and trainees. The aim is to inspire early career GPs (trainees and first 7 years post CCT) to be informed leaders as well as excellent clinicians, with the insight and connections they need to change and improve the system in which we work. We are excited to now be bringing the programme to The South West. Please see attached information, titled Info for applicants SW, regarding the programme which is open to GP's across the South West.

Practice Manager - Coaching and Mentoring

Practice Managers are being offered coaching and mentoring sessions as part of the GPFV Practice Manager Development programme offered by NHS England. Through this you would receive up to four 90-minute sessions, to help identify goals and think through challenges. Places are limited (we have just over 700 places) and subject to a suitability assessment and will then be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

The **deadline is 21st January 2019**.

Please apply via this [link](#). For any queries email england.gpdevelopment@nhs.net

Updated: Final Pharmacy rotas for the Christmas & New Year Bank Holidays 2018/19

Following the item in the GP Bulletin 293 7th December there have been some updates. Therefore, we attach the final Pharmacy rotas for the Christmas & New Year Bank Holidays 2018/19. Please consider displaying the appropriate sheet. These final rotas, attached, are available the web site [HERE](#) along with those for Devon, Cornwall & Isles of Scilly

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

None

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

Please see item below: Devon Local Medical Committee leaflet for GPs and practice managers

- **Items for South Devon and Torbay CCG**

Devon Local Medical Committee leaflet for GPs and practice managers

Devon Local Medical Committee has produced a new leaflet for GPs and practice managers to raise awareness and understanding about its role, work and how to get involved. You can view the leaflet [here](#). A copy is attached titled DevonLMC DL Leaflet final. Copies are available on request by emailing richard.turner@devonlmc.org

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

None