Date 25th October 2019 / Issue 339

About this bulletin
To minimise the number of emails sent to practices, NHS England and NHS Improvement – South West 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 affecting payments, as well as updates on issues relating to GP contracts. We recognise that CCGs with delegated authority may also issue information to practices regarding their areas of specific responsibility, however, the bulletin remains relevant to the practices in those areas in terms of the public health areas for which NHS England and Improvement remain responsible.

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
  o Latest guidance on Ceasing and Deferring women from the NHS Cervical Screening Programme
  o Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (Fluenz Tetra) supply
  o Rise in Group A Streptococcal (IGAS) and MRSA infections in people who inject drugs, and the homeless populations
  o National Childhood Flu Immunisation Programme: Recommendations for General Practitioners
  o Primary Care Networks - Next Steps for Practice Managers Conference
• Items for Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Practices Only
  o BNSSG School Imms Pathways
• Items for Somerset Practices Only
  o None
• Items for Devon Practices Only
  o None
• Items for Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Practices only
  o CQRS – Learning Disabilities Health Check Service 2019-20 Extraction and Payment
Key Deadlines

| CQRS declarations for payment in the same month | 9th 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

**Latest guidance on Ceasing and Deferring women from the NHS Cervical Screening Programme**

The latest guidance on Ceasing and Deferring women from the NHS Cervical Screening Programme has been released by PHE and can be found at the following link:


The guidance provides clear information on the conditions that a woman should meet to either defer or cease from the screening programme, with clear direction that it is preferable for a woman to defer than be permanently ceased.

**GP responsibilities**

Section 6 of the guidance lists the responsibilities of GPs to ensure that the process works as efficiently as possible. This includes:

- check PNLs and send updates to call and recall within the requested timescales
- monitor repeated consecutive deferrals for the same person to ensure these are necessary
- notify call and recall outside the PNL process if a person needs to be ceased or sent a withdrawal form
- respond to queries from call and recall where a ceasing request has been made by another organisation
- provide advice and support on request to people who want to make an informed choice to withdraw from recall
- help physically and mentally disabled people to access screening services to avoid unnecessary ceasing
- support and input into best interest meetings regarding individuals who may not have capacity to consent to screening or to withdraw from screening themselves
- cooperate and fulfil ceasing audit requirements in a timely manner

**Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (Fluenz Tetra) supply**

Please see the attached briefing note from Public Health England
**Rise in Group A Streptococcal (IGAS) and MRSA infections in people who inject drugs, and the homeless populations**

There has been a national and regional increase in cases of IGAS and MRSA infections with people who inject drugs and people who are homeless/living in hostels being at increased risk. Somerset currently has higher rates of IGAS compared with the national/Southwest figures. PHE Health Protection Team request the following of Primary Care:

- Be vigilant for possible Group A Strep (GAS) infections
  - sore throats or mild skin infections such as impetigo;
  - signs of invasive disease: high fever, severe muscle aches, localised muscle tenderness, redness at the site of a wound

- If you suspect a GAS or MRSA infection in one of the above, please ensure the following samples are sent to the laboratory:
  - throat swabs if no other evidence of infection
  - wound/skin swabs in cases of soft tissue infection

- If you suspect sepsis, arrange urgent admission for assessment including blood cultures.

If you have any questions or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the PHE HPT on 0300 303 8162 option 1 option 1.

**National Childhood Flu Immunisation Programme: Recommendations for General Practitioners**


Because of the phasing of supplies, PHE recommends planning the childhood vaccination programme using following priorities:

- Children in high risk groups aged 6 months to 2 years – these children should be called and offered quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (QIVe)
- Children in high risk groups from 2 to 18 years should be prioritised and offered LAIV (unless contraindicated). Those aged 2-3 years and age 11-18 years should be called in and offered LAIV or a suitable quadrivalent influenza vaccine (QIV)
- Healthy children aged 2-3 years should be called and offered LAIV as the practice receives stock. Two-year olds who are receiving vaccine for the first season are a higher priority than 3-year olds

CHIS letters will only be sent to eligible 2-year olds in the first instance.

Responsible ordering will help support the direction of stock to those with greatest immediate need as it becomes available. Practice staff are asked to only order vaccine needed for the forthcoming week, even if this is below the maximum quota and to avoid
stockpiling. Close adherence to the vaccine storage in the cold chain is essential to avoid vaccine wastage.


An information leaflet is being developed for parents to explain which children are eligible for vaccination and where this will be delivered and will be posted shortly on the PHE website.

**Primary Care Networks - Next Steps for Practice Managers Conference**

NHS England and NHS Improvement are holding a series of dedicated regional events this autumn for Practice Managers:

- Hear about PCNs, the fundamental role that you play and the development funding that is available
- Talk to Practice Managers who are working within PCNs and understand how their roles have developed
- Join interactive workshops that focus on:
  - PCN leadership: in the context of practice management
  - Coaching: support for practice managers
  - Population Health Management and collaborative working
  - Workforce – newer workforce roles and the impact on capacity

Register via [NHS England events](https://www.england.nhs.uk/events/) – please note that the London, North West and Midlands events are currently all showing up as being fully booked. If delegates want to go on to a waiting list they can send their details and will be notified if places become available. For further information please contact england.gpdevelopment@nhs.net

Individual event links are as follows:

- **Thursday 7th November**  
  **East of England**  
  Wyboston Lakes, Bedfordshire
- **Tuesday 12th November**  
  **Midlands**  
  Villa Park, Birmingham
- **Thursday 14th November**  
  **South East**  
  Epsom Downs Racecourse, Surrey
- **Thursday 21st November**  
  **London**  
  Kia Oval, Kennington, London
- **Monday 25th November**  
  **North West**  
  St Helens Rugby Club, St Helens, Merseyside
- **Thursday 28th November**  
  **South West**  
  St Mellion Resort, Plymouth, Devon
- **Tuesday 3rd December**  
  **North East**  
  Well Met, Leeds Beckett University, Leeds

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

**BNSSG School Imms Pathways**

Please see the attached BNSSG School Aged Immunisations Pathway documents with amended contact details for Flu Providers and Full listing of Clinic dates included.
Any school children that are eligible for a flu nasal spray vaccination but have missed their school clinic will be sent an invitation to mop up clinics. Booking is essential for these clinics so please ask parents to contact the local provider (North Somerset Community Partnership) on 01275 373104 to arrange.

- **Items for Somerset Practices only**
  None

- **Items for Devon Practices only**
  None

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

  **CQRS – Learning Disabilities Health Check Service 2019-20 Extraction and Payment**

  NHS Digital is currently investigating an issue with the data returns for Quarter 1 (1 April – 30 June) and Quarter 2 (1 July – 30 September) for the Learning Disabilities Health Check Service.

  All practices will have received a system task message to declare Q2 achievement – please disregard this task until further notice.

  It is anticipated that there will be a further extraction of Q2 data, once we have more information regarding this and any other actions required we will provide a further update.