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 Tier 2 Sponsorship
  o Transgender Patients and Passports
  o Staff Flu Vaccination Reminder
  o Increase in GP practice ordering allocations for Fluenz (LAIV) children’s flu vaccine
  o Maternal Pertussis programme – upcoming changes to dTaP/IPV vaccine
• Items for Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Practices Only
  o None
• Items for Somerset Practices Only
  o None
• Items for Devon Practices Only
  o None
• Items for Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Practices only
  o None
**Key Deadlines**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event/Deadline</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Via</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019/20 General Practice Annual Electronic Declaration (eDEC) Submission</td>
<td>by Tuesday 17th December 2019</td>
<td><a href="https://datacollection.sdcs.digital.nhs.uk/">https://datacollection.sdcs.digital.nhs.uk/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CQRS declarations for payment in the same month</td>
<td>9th of each month</td>
<td>CQRS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternity, paternity, parental or sickness absence</td>
<td>Last working day of each month</td>
<td>Kernow practices only via <a href="mailto:England.primarycaremedical@nhs.net">England.primarycaremedical@nhs.net</a> and other practices via their CCG</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Items for all Practices**

**Tier 2 Sponsorship**

There are currently 12 GP registrars who complete their training in 2020 and may require visas to remain in the UK.

NHS England is supporting practices should they wish to apply to be Tier 2 sponsors for doctors that require a visa. Supporting information is attached.

We are working with Health Education England to make sure all such GPs make themselves known to us for the future and then we can match them up with a local area.

Please contact Dr Liz Thomas liz.thomas2@nhs.net for more information, or if there are any concerns.

**Transgender Patients and Passports**

The government has reminded GPs of the procedure around transgender patients requiring a letter for a new passport. Those with a valid British passport in their birth gender who wish to apply for a new one in an acquired gender simply need a letter from their doctor or medical consultant confirming their change of gender is likely to be permanent. Evidence of change of name, such as deed poll is sufficient, and a gender recognition certificate is not required. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/251703/Applying_for_a_passport_additional_information.PDF](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/251703/Applying_for_a_passport_additional_information.PDF)

**Staff Flu Vaccination Reminder**

A letter from the chief nurse, Ruth May, urges every member of the NHS’s frontline workforce to get vaccinated against flu and to work together to ensure that colleagues are also covered. [https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/staff-flu-vaccination-reminder-letter-from-ruth-may/](https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/staff-flu-vaccination-reminder-letter-from-ruth-may/)

**Increase in GP practice ordering allocations for Fluenz (LAIV) children’s flu vaccine**
From the 25th November Immform have increased GP allocations of Fluenz (Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine) to the equivalent of last year’s individual % uptake, or 45% of their eligible cohort if their uptake was lower.

For ordering queries please contact Helpdesk@immform.org.uk or 0844 376 0040.

**Eligibility of vaccine for 2 & 3 year old patients**

- In the 2019/20 flu season, flu vaccine should be offered to all children who are aged two to three years old on 31 August 2019 within GP practice.
- Children in an at risk group aged 4 and over are also eligible for flu vaccination either with the school programme or GP practice.
- Children aged four to ten years old on 31st August 2019 and not in an at risk group will be vaccinated by the local school immunisation team.
- Children aged 6 months to 2 years of age who are in a clinical at risk group are also eligible for vaccination at a GP surgery, but should be given the egg-grown quadrivalent influenza vaccine (QIVe) rather than LAIV. More details on this can be found in the Green Book ([https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book)).

**Maternal Pertussis programme – upcoming changes to dTaP/IPV vaccine**

Please see update below from the Public Health England national team:

The maternal pertussis immunisation programme commenced in October 2012, initially using Repevax® vaccine (dTaP/IPV). From July 2014, Boostrix®-IPV (dTaP/IPV) has been supplied.

From mid-January 2020, Repevax® will be available to order through ImmForm for use in the maternal pertussis immunisation programme instead of Boostrix®-IPV. This is a temporary change and it is anticipated that supplies will revert back to Boostrix®-IPV in autumn 2020. This change is necessary as PHE is running down all stock of Repevax® before the introduction of Boostrix-IPV across both the maternal pertussis and the pre-school booster programmes.

There is no other change to the maternal pertussis immunisation programme, further details about this programme can be found in chapter 24 of the Green Book: ([https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pertussis-the-green-book-chapter-24](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pertussis-the-green-book-chapter-24)).

- **Items for Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Practices only**
  None

- **Items for Somerset Practices only**
  None
• Items for Devon Practices only
  None

• Items for Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Practices only
  None