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 Urgent action - supply issue with azathioprine and updated re-supply dates for other tier 1 or tier 2 medicines
  o Continuing to encourage flu vaccination at this stage of the season
  o Culture Change in Mental Health Event
  o Updated Technical Requirements and Coding Documents for 2019-20
  o Final push for flu immunisations in GP practice
  o MMR Campaign Launching from 20 January
• Items for Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Practices Only
  o Diabetic Eye Screening Programme (DESP) in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG)
• 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>CQRS declarations for payment in the same month</th>
<th>9th of each month</th>
<th>Via CQRS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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**

**Urgent action - supply issue with azathioprine and updated re-supply dates for other tier 1 or tier 2 medicines**

On behalf of DHSC please see attached information regarding azathioprine 25mg tablets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medicine</th>
<th>Out of stock until</th>
<th>Alternatives (NB FP10 prescriptions must indicate that a special is required/prescribed by the GP)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Azathioprine 25mg tablets</td>
<td>w/c 27 January 2020</td>
<td>Azathioprine 50mg tablets and azathioprine 50mg/5ml oral suspension (unlicensed special) remain available.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There have also been changes to the resupply dates of the medicines listed below. These MSNs were previously circulated via our commissioning routes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original MSN reference</th>
<th>Date of original Medicine Supply Notification (MSN)</th>
<th>Supply issue</th>
<th>Resupply date previously communicated</th>
<th>Updated resupply date as of January 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>23-Aug-19 Sewayna Press Injection</td>
<td>At least end 2019</td>
<td>Quarter 1 2020 – to be confirmed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>12-Sep-19 Mianserin 10mg/30mg tablets</td>
<td>end 2019</td>
<td>June 2020</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>24-Oct-19 Paroxetine (Roxatid) 10mg/5ml liquid</td>
<td>January 2020</td>
<td>End February 2020</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSN/2019/003</td>
<td>01-Nov-19 Metazoline (Saldokid) 500mg/1g suppositories</td>
<td>20 December 2019</td>
<td>500mg – mid-April 2020</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSN/2019/007U</td>
<td>14-Nov-19 Disopyramide 150mg capsules</td>
<td>13 December 2019</td>
<td>March 2020</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSN/2019/009</td>
<td>14-Nov-19 Synphase tablets</td>
<td>20 December 2019</td>
<td>End January 2020</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSN/2019/024</td>
<td>20-Dec-19 Clonidine 25mcg tablets</td>
<td>At least mid-January 2019</td>
<td>Mid/end February 2020</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please be aware this communication is also being circulated separately to all Community Pharmacies in England.

Please note that supply issues that have been categorised as tier 1 or 2. More serious supply issues are communicated via the Central Alerting System for action.

If you have any queries please contact: DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk

**Continuing to encourage flu vaccination at this stage of the season**

We would like to thank everyone for their tremendous efforts with implementing the annual seasonal flu vaccination programme. Despite some of the complexities that we have faced
this season, vaccination uptake rates for those ‘65 and over’ are higher than they were at the same time last season.

Usually at this stage of the flu season, many providers may be beginning to wind down their vaccination efforts. However, due to a variety of reasons we are behind with vaccine uptake for several cohorts, particularly the under 65 at-risk groups and two and three-year olds. As Influenza activity remains high, we are strongly encouraging providers to continue with their efforts to vaccinate as many people as possible.

Weekly cumulative vaccine uptake data compared to the same period last season for all cohorts is summarised below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cohort</th>
<th>Uptake</th>
<th>Last Season Uptake</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>70.7%</td>
<td>(69.9% last season)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At risk</td>
<td>41.0%</td>
<td>(45.1% last season)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnant women</td>
<td>41.4%</td>
<td>(43.8% last season)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-year olds (including those in risk groups)</td>
<td>37.7%</td>
<td>(41.9% last season)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-year olds (including those in risk groups)</td>
<td>37.6%</td>
<td>(43.5% last season)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Providers are requested to implement the seasonal influenza programme as outlined in the relevant service specifications. As part of this, general practices are required to call in those who are eligible for flu vaccination, and to undertake recall for those in clinical risk groups for influenza. Centrally supplied vaccine for the childhood programme is still available to order and GPs will be reimbursed for vaccines given to all other eligible cohorts.

Supporting information:

The monthly data is available at: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/vaccine-uptake](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/vaccine-uptake)


Culture Change in Mental Health Event
The South West Mental Health Clinical Network would like to invite you to the Culture Change in Mental Health Event which takes place on Tuesday 10th March 2020.

Registration:
If you would like to attend the event, please complete a [Culture Change in Mental Health Booking Form](#) attached. If you know of anyone that the event would be useful to please forward. For further information or queries please email: [england.swclinicalnetwork@nhs.net](mailto:england.swclinicalnetwork@nhs.net).
Updated Technical Requirements and Coding Documents for 2019-20

Please be advised that the Technical Requirements for 2019-20 have been updated and now include information for the Network Contract DES, 2019/20 Dementia Data Collection, National Diabetes Audit 2019-20, Childhood Seasonal Flu and Seasonal Flu (including healthcare workers). The updated document and supporting information, SNOMED codes and descriptions (for the seasonal flu service) and Dementia Diagnosis Codes, can be found on the NHS England website here.

Please ensure that you review this updated information and adjust your coding as appropriate.

Final push for flu immunisations in GP practice

Please see attached .pdf regarding immunising eligible patients.

MMR Campaign Launching from 20 January

Every GP practice in the country will shortly receive posters and reception counter cards to support the NHS ‘Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) – Help Us Help You, Get Protected’ campaign.

This is one of six campaigns agreed as part of this year’s GP contract and the materials have been developed to support you in encouraging your patients to get protected.

Research shows, that healthcare professionals are the most trusted source of information on vaccination. Their positive voice and ability to carefully correct any myths around vaccination are a vital part in maintaining and improving vaccination uptake.

As part of this campaign, there are two posters, one version featuring a nurse, and an additional version that features a nurse and child (for the important parents of young children audience). Both posters carry the same text, highlighting that the MMR vaccination is the safest and most effective way to protect people and their families against measles, mumps and rubella. It goes on to say that two doses of the MMR vaccination are required for full protection and that a catch-up vaccination is available to those that aren’t fully immunised.

When the posters arrive, please display them prominently in your practice – the posters shouldn’t be used side by side – but it’s suggested that the ‘nurse and child’ poster could be used in areas/clinics that are more likely to receive parents.

The counter card should be used at reception desk to prompt patients to ask about the MMR vaccination when they’re talking to the reception team. A digital pack including these and further downloadable materials including social media content and digital screens will also be available via the Campaign Resource Centre. These materials are designed to complement other materials which are available to download/order here: https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/Home.html
• Items for Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Practices only

Diabetic Eye Screening Programme (DESP) in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG)

Please see the attached letter which provides an update regarding the procurement of Diabetic Eye Screening Programmes (DESP) in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG). For any queries please contact: phcontractssouthwest@nhs.net

• Items for Somerset Practices only

None

• Items for Devon Practices only

None

• Items for Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Practices only

None