

Public Health GP Bulletin

Section 7a: Screening & Immunisations



NHS England and NHS Improvement - South West

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About this bulletin

The NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE/I) South West Integrated Public Health Team has taken over responsibility from the NHSE/I South West Primary Care Team for collating and issuing a rebranded, weekly Public Health GP Bulletin. This weekly bulletin is the main method of communicating with practice managers covering the 579 practices in Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Bath & North East Somerset, Swindon, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Devon, Dorset, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

The bulletins contain important public health information for practice managers on Section 7a screening and immunisation programmes, which are commissioned by NHSE/I. Content may include requests for information and deadlines affecting payments, as well as updates on issues relating to GP contracts.

Current issues and back copies of the bulletins and attachments are available on the NHSE/I website [here](#).

If you have any questions or wish to provide feedback, please contact the Integrated Public Health Team on england.swscreeningandimms@nhs.net

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Key Deadlines

CQRS declarations for payment in the same month	9 th of each month	Via CQRS
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- **Items for all Practices**

Flu Vaccine Eligibility Carers and Health and Social Care Staff

Practices are asked to note that there appears to be some confusion being reported in regards to eligibility for the flu vaccine for health and social care workers and carers.

We can confirm the following as stated in the national flu letter:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-flu-immunisation-programme-plan>

Carers

Anyone who is in receipt of a carers allowance, a part time carer or the main carer of an older or disabled person, or a young carer, is eligible for a flu vaccine from their registered GP or pharmacy. If the carer falls ill the welfare of the person/people they look after may be at risk. It is important carers are protected, so they can continue to give care to those they support and stay healthy throughout flu season.

Health and social care staff

There are three groups:

- 1) All health and social care staff employed by a registered residential care / nursing home or registered domiciliary care provider, who are directly involved in the care of vulnerable patients / clients who are at increased risk from exposure to flu.
- 2) All health and care staff employed by voluntary managed hospice providers, who are directly involved in the care of vulnerable patients/ clients who are at increased risk from exposure to flu.
- 3) Health and social care workers employed through Direct Payments (personal budgets) and / or Personal Health Budgets, such as Personal Assistants, to deliver domiciliary care to patients and service users.

All these three groups are eligible for a flu vaccine and can be delivered either by an occupational health offer from their employer, through their registered GP or with a pharmacy.

The flu letter also states that the health care professional should also apply clinical judgement to take into account the risk of flu. If a patient is presenting as a carer or health care worker and they are looking after vulnerable / at risk people, they should

be offered a flu vaccine and payment can be claimed for this. Codes for those groups are listed within the technical requirements.

Revised guidelines for the movement of flu vaccines

[Revised guidelines for the movement of flu vaccines](#) has now been approved by MHRA. These guidelines enable clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), primary care networks (PCNs), general practitioners and NHS trusts to move local flu vaccine stock between NHS providers as necessary. This is a very short interim measure to help with this year's expanded flu programme as a consultation exercise is currently being conducted on this issue. Any sharing arrangements should ensure that vaccines are kept and transferred correctly.

Flu vaccine for people with a medical condition

Further to the [flu immunisation programme update](#) sent to practices and local systems on 5 August; this is a reminder that people with long term respiratory conditions such as asthma (that requires an inhaled or tablet steroid treatment, or has led to hospital admission in the past), Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), emphysema or bronchitis should be offered the flu vaccine. Respiratory diseases are a major factor in winter pressures. It is imperative this cohort of patients undertake prevention activities to reduce the risk of flu and deterioration of their respiratory condition as soon as possible. Details were outlined in the [national flu immunisation programme letter](#) of 5 August 2020.

Diabetic eye screening intervals extended for people at lowest risk

This information is for people waiting longer than usual for their regular diabetic eye screening (DES) appointment during the restoration of the NHS DES Programme due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Services are working to restore DES safely while implementing social distancing and personal protective equipment (PPE) COVID-19 requirements. People at greatest risk of sight loss are being prioritised as services restore.

Patients may wait longer than normal for their next screening appointment because they had no diabetic retinopathy detected at their most recent screening test and are therefore in the lowest risk group.

Full details can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/diabetic-eye-screening-longer-intervals-for-people-at-lowest-risk>

Any queries please contact the team via phcontractssouthwest@nhs.net

Notification of CQRS availability and delay to the move to PCSE online

This is to notify users that the CQRS system enhancements have now been successfully completed and full functionality has been restored. Users are now able to declare achievement and approve payments.

New CQRS URL

The new URL for CQRS is www.cqrs.nhs.uk, please update your bookmarks. The previous URL will automatically redirect users to this page.

CQRS users with a NHSmail “@nhs.net” email address

- You will login to CQRS via a single sign-on method using your “nhs.net” email address and password

CQRS users with a “nhs.uk” email address

- You will continue to login via your existing username and password, known as “legacy login”

A communication has been sent directly to all active users of the CQRS system with guidance on how to log in. Log in guidance attached for reference.

For all users, profile and permissions will remain the same and all other functions, such as offering services, viewing achievement, approving payments and granting user access, will also remain the same.

Delay to go live of PCSE online

We have received notification from PCSE that the move of our GP Payment Systems from NHAIS to PCSE online has been delayed and will no longer be completed on 28 September as previously advised.

Practices should continue to declare achievement and commissioners should continue to approve payments as normal. We will send a further communication once we have more information and confirmation of a new go-live date.

If you have any problems logging into the system when it's live again, please contact support@cqrs.co.uk

NHS Cervical Screening Programme Sample Results

We are writing to let you know that we will be processing less cervical screening samples over the next couple of weeks.

This is because of a short-term shortage in the supply of reagents for the testing process. We have been informed by the supplier that stocks will become available again the w/c 8th October 2020 and we are working with them to minimise any risk of this happening again.

Please continue to take cervical screening samples and send them to the laboratory as you would normally. On receipt, the samples will be stored in a suitable environment until they can be processed, and the results will not be affected.

We advise that when taking samples, you inform your patient that results may take a little longer and that they should contact you in the practice if they've not received anything within 6 weeks. Please also reassure people that this is unlikely to cause or increase the risk of clinical harm to them and that cervical cancer takes many years to develop in most cases.

We will update you if there are any changes to the situation.

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

None

- **Items for Bath & North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Practices only**

None

- **Items for Gloucestershire Practices only**

Gloucestershire School Aged Immunisations Pathways for 2020/21

We are pleased to share the pathways for school aged immunisations delivered in Gloucestershire by Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust. The pathways document attached with this bulletin also includes the current flu clinic schedule up to and including December. Please note that this schedule is subject to change. If you have any questions about the school aged immunisation service, please contact Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust on 0300 421 8140 or by email:

GHC.Immunisation@ghc.nhs.uk

- **Items for Somerset Practices only**

Somerset School Aged Immunisations Pathways for 2020/21

We are pleased to share the pathways for school aged immunisations delivered in Somerset by Somerset NHS Foundation Trust. The pathways document attached with this bulletin also includes a link to the flu clinic schedule on the provider's website. If you have any questions about the school aged immunisation service, please contact the Somerset School Aged Immunisation Nursing Team on 0300 323 0032 or by email:

somersetsaint@somersetft.nhs.uk

- **Items for Devon Practices only**

None

- **Items for Dorset Practices only**

Dorset School Aged Immunisations Pathways for 2020/21

We are pleased to share the pathways for school aged immunisations delivered in Dorset by Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust. The pathways document attached with this bulletin also includes the current flu clinic schedule up to and including December. Please note that this schedule is subject to change. If you have any questions about the

school aged immunisation service, please contact Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust on 01425 891162 or by email: dhc.immsenquiries@nhs.net

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

Update on flu vaccinations for housebound patients in Cornwall

Thank you to practices who have contacted Cornwall Partnership to register their interest in participating in the housebound vaccination scheme this year. Cornwall Partnership are in the process of finalising internal governance arrangements. All practices who have signed up to the scheme will be contacted by the 2nd October to confirm plans and next steps. If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact sara.bailey6@nhs.net

Cornwall School Aged Immunisations Pathways for 2020/21

We are pleased to share the pathways for school aged immunisations delivered in Cornwall by Kernow Health CIC. The pathways document attached with this bulletin also includes the current clinic schedule up to and including December. Please note that this schedule is subject to change. If you have any questions about the school aged immunisation service, please contact Kernow Health CIC on 01872 221105 or by email: kernowhealth.schoolimmunisations@nhs.net