

Public Health GP Bulletin

Section 7a: Screening & Immunisations



NHS England and NHS Improvement - South West

Date: 18th December 2020/ Issue 15

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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- Items for Dorset, Bath & North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Practices only
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- Items for Gloucestershire Practices only
 - None
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 - None

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

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

Decommissioning bowel scope screening and expansion of the home testing (FIT kit) programme

Following expert clinical advice and engagement with stakeholders including the UK National Screening Committee (UKNSC), NHSEI has made the decision to decommission bowel scope screening, supported by the Secretary of State, to allow a focus on the expansion of the home testing programme to include 50 to 59 year olds, meaning the programme will cover 50 to 74 years olds which is a key NHS commitment as part of the NHS Long Term Plan. The NHS plans to extend the home testing – FIT kit – programme from April 2021.

The decision to discontinue bowel scope will also allow a continued focus on fully restoring the bowel screening programme for 60 to 74 year olds following the impact of COVID-19 and ensure that people are receiving any follow up diagnostic tests in a timely way.

People that have already been invited for a bowel scope will be offered a bowel screening home testing kit.

Bowel scope screening was being offered to people aged 55 in some part of England as a one-off preventative test to look for and remove any small growths (polyps). Of those that have bowel scope, 0.3% will have cancer.

Evidence showed that fewer people were accepting the offer of a bowel scope than expected. Due to the increased demand for services following the introduction of the FIT home testing kit last year – an easier to use and more sensitive test – and the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on services, bowel scope screening had stopped.

The NHS continues to work with partners including the bowel screening workforce, on plans to further strengthen the bowel screening programme going forward, in line with the Professor Sir Mike Richards Review of adult screening services. This includes immediate funded opportunities for training, upskilling and career development to help meet the workforce needs arising from the bowel screening age extension.

If you have any queries please contact england.swscreeningandimms@nhs.net

Hayley Ware | Screening and Immunisation Manager
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RCARS COVID-19 Newsletter 14.12.20

Please see Attachment: *R-CARS COVID-19 Newsletter*

We are pleased to share up to date COVID-19 vaccination advice. Please see the attached document.

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

None

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

DES Procurement Stakeholder Survey (For Dorset and BSW practices only)

Please see Attachments: *Options Analysis and Diabetic Eye Feedback*

As you may be aware NHS England and NHS Improvement is required to undertake a re-procurement of Diabetic Eye Screening (DES) Services in Dorset, Bath & North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire to ensure we have ongoing delivery of services post 2022. As part of any process we take the opportunity to check whether the way services are currently commissioned as still fit for purpose or whether we should be commissioning something slightly different. Whilst the Diabetic Eye Programme is delivered in line with strict national guidance, we would like to ask stakeholders a few questions about the most appropriate footprint upon which to deliver services going forwards to ensure the programmes long term sustainability, promote effective pathways of care and alignment to local planning.

Your thoughts on this matter will be incredibly helpful and used to help inform our thinking to ensure the procurement meets the needs of service users most effectively going forwards as well as making the best use of public funds. To help you respond to the attached questionnaire, please find attached some background information with a list of options and initial advantages and disadvantages of each. These are indicative rather than fully complete thus you may identify further advantages and disadvantages which again we would be very interested to hear.

Please could you complete and return the attached survey by the 8th January 2021. Surveys should be emailed to phcontractssouthwest@nhs.net

Please be assured no decisions have been made on these issues and we welcome all feedback.

Kirsty Edlin
Public Health Senior Commissioning Manager

- **Items for 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