

Public Health GP Bulletin

Section 7a: Screening & Immunisations



NHS England and NHS Improvement - South West

Date: 4th June 2021 / Issue 40

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

Key Deadlines

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- **Items for all Practices**

RCARS COVID-19 Newsletter 04.06.21

We are pleased to share up to date COVID-19 vaccination advice. Please find attached.

Bowel Cancer Screening Programme and Age Extension: The Expansion of the Home Testing (FIT kit) Programme

From April 2021, NHS England and Improvement expanded the population eligible to receive a Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) as part of the NHS bowel cancer screening programme to include 50-59-year olds. The age extension will be gradually rolled out across the South West in a phased approach over the next four years, meeting a key commitment as part of the NHS Long Term Plan 2019 to modernise the programme and ensure alignment with the government commitments to improve earlier diagnosis.

Following expert clinical advice and engagement with stakeholders including the UK National Screening Committee (UKNSC), Ministers made the decision that NHSEI should decommission bowel scope screening in December 2020.

This self-test is easy for people to use at home. Since this test was introduced into the NHS Bowel Screening Programme in 2019, uptake has increased and is expected to be in line with trials which suggested increased uptake among groups with low participation rates, such as men, people from ethnic minority backgrounds and people in more deprived areas. We continue to encourage you to support your populations in taking up the offer of screening when invited.

A FAQ document is attached to support any questions you, or your patients may have so please do share with all relevant colleagues within your practice.

The move to commence age extension will also support our continued emphasis on fully restoring bowel screening provision amidst the impact of COVID-19, helping to ensure that people are receiving any follow-up diagnostic tests in a timely way.

If you have any additional questions regarding this roll out then please do get in contact via england.swscreeningandimms@nhs.net

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- **Items for Gloucestershire Practices only**

None

- **Items for Somerset Practices only**

None

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None

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

None