

Public Health GP Bulletin

Section 7a: Screening & Immunisations



NHS England and NHS Improvement - South West

Date: 16th July 2021 / Issue 46

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
- Items for Devon Practices only

- None
- Items for Dorset Practices only
 - 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 16.07.21

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

New NHS Cervical Screening Management System

On the 30th October 2021 NHS Digital will be implementing a new NHS cervical screening management system. This will replace the current call/recall IT system for cervical screening, which sits on the National Health Application and Infrastructure Services (NHAIS) platform (sometimes called the Exeter system) and is accessed by the Open Exeter system. Attached is a letter from the NHS Digital implementation team detailing what steps need to be taken in order to prepare for the transition to the new Cervical Screening management system. Furthermore, information on implementation and guides to understand your organisations requirements can be found on the implementation webpage [New NHS Cervical Screening Management System starting 2021 - NHS Digital](#).

If you have any other questions or concerns about the new system please contact NHS Digital by email via screening.implementation@nhs.net and a member of the team will get back to you.

Aug 2021 South West Shingles Campaign & Toolkit

Please ensure your PCN Immunisation Leads are aware of this article and attachments if not already sighted to this bulletin.

Shingles affects 1 in 4 people and predominantly those who are over 70. However, uptake rates of the shingles vaccine are falling in the South West and in England. To begin to address this within the South West we are pleased to confirm the following:

- **Launch of the Shingles Vaccination Programme Toolkit for improving uptake 2021.** The purpose of this toolkit is to help you in your practice to better protect your patients by suggesting ways to improve uptake of the shingles vaccine. These

suggestions are based on best practice and evidence and have been shown to work with little or no cost to your practice.

- **The launch of a local Shingles campaign.** This will be initiated within the South West to improve uptake of the Shingles Vaccine promoting to all those who are over 70 (and under 80). Various forms of communication are planned to encourage those who have not yet had the vaccine to speak to their GP, or discuss with their GP the next time they have an appointment. This is expected to run from 02 August 2021 for a minimum of 2 weeks.

Should you plan to increase your stock levels please ensure that these are considered carefully as each dose of Zostavax costs the NHS £99.96. Please ensure that you do not overstock as this can lead to excessive wastage. It is recommended that orders should be limited to a maximum of 5 doses, unless you are planning a dedicated and focused campaign or coffee morning in which case it may be appropriate to order more stock. Promotional resources can be downloaded here [Shingles vaccination: eligibility poster - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

If you have any queries regarding either the toolkit or the campaign please email england.swscreeningandimms@nhs.net

Changes to infant BCG and rotavirus pathways due to SCID screening evaluation

The UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) has previously recommended that screening babies for severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) should be evaluated in the NHS.

The SCID evaluation is due to launch in September 2021 and will cover around two thirds of the newborn population of England. The results will inform a recommendation about whether screening for SCID should become part of the NHS newborn blood spot (NBS) screening programme in England.

The SCID evaluation is reliant on changes to the BCG vaccination programme. This is because treatment for SCID is more complicated if a baby has had the BCG vaccine. For those babies who are being screened for SCID, it is important that the SCID screening result is available before BCG is offered. These changes will mean babies eligible for BCG will only be given the vaccine:

- once they have reached 28 days old
- on receipt of a screen negative SCID result (or 'SCID not offered' result if not within an area involved in the evaluation)

Although laboratories in the South West are not involved in the SCID rollout, changes to the BCG pathway need to be made across England, to account for babies moving into the area.

Colleagues in primary care will also need to be aware that SCID results will need to be checked for all babies prior to the administration of rotavirus vaccines. Rotavirus vaccines cannot be given to SCID positive infants as these are also live attenuated vaccines. We are working with local CHIS providers to finalise the processes and data flows to support primary care to access SCID results prior to vaccination clinics.

We are expecting further information and training materials from the national team and will continue to provide updates via the GP bulletin over the coming weeks.

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

None

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None

- **Items for Gloucestershire Practices only**

None

- **Items for Somerset Practices only**

None

- **Items for Devon Practices only**

None

- **Items for Dorset Practices only**

None

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

None