

Community Pharmacy Bulletin



6 August 2021



NHS England and NHS Improvement – South West

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Coming Up

	August	September	October
Week 1	<p>Public Health England COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign materials to be removed from display 1 August 2021</p> <p>-----</p> <p>PSNC Covid -19 Cost Claims workshop 2 August 2021 7.30pm</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Expressions of Interest for Christmas and New Year Applications 2 August 2021</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Paediatric Respiratory Illness Virtual Event 4 August 2021 12.30pm – 1.30pm</p>		<p>Supplementary Application for New Year's Eve (31 December 2021) deadline 3 October 2021</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Core and Supplementary Applications for New Year's Day (1 January 2022) deadline 2 October 2021</p>

	August	September	October
Week 2			
Week 3			
Week 4	Aligning the Upper Age for NHS Prescription Charge Exemptions with the State Pension age consultation closes 26 August 2021 11.45pm	Supplementary Application for Christmas Eve (24 December 2021) deadline 25 September 2021 ----- Core and Supplementary Applications for Boxing Day (26 December) deadline 27 September 2021	
Week 5	August Bank Holiday 30 August 2021		

Headlines from the Week

NHS England

- [The Shared decision-making programme is now open to all NHS pharmacy professionals in a patient-facing role in England](#)

NHS England South West Regional Team

- None

PSNC Bulletin

- [Amanda Pritchard appointed NHS England Chief Executive](#)
- [Single Activity Fee to increase from August 1 2021](#)
- [How to avoid SSP endorsement errors](#)
- [Pharmacy skincare research project](#)
- [Free of charge and Multi-Charge items factsheets updated](#)
- [COVID-19 Claim Countdown](#)
- [July 2021 Price Concessions Final Update](#)
- [Latest COVID-19 Cost Claims workshop now on-demand](#)
- [Extra Smartcard rights extended until 2022](#)

New Pharmacy Profiles on NHS Website

(taken from Primary Care Bulletin - 29 July 2021 (Issue 145))

The NHS website has launched new service profiles for pharmacies. The new profiles better meet the needs of patients, feature improved support for mobile devices and meet modern accessibility standards. No action is needed by pharmacy editors as existing profile information is being copied across to the new profiles. Pharmacies can view their new profiles by using the NHS website [pharmacy finder](#). The way to update the new profiles will stay the same, using the [current profile editor](#).

This work is part of a programme to continuously improve the care and experience offered to patients through the [NHS website](#), the UK's largest health website for the public.

If you have any questions, you can contact the [NHS website service desk](#).

New Tests for Pharmacies Participating in the Covid-19 Test Kit Distribution Service

(taken from Primary Care Bulletin - 29 July 2021 (Issue 145))

Further to the item in our bulletin on 23 July 2021, on the transition from Innova to Orient Gene test kits in pharmacies participating in the Covid-19 test kit distribution service, NHS Test and Trace will now transition straight from Innova to Acon Flowflex test kits from the week commencing 2 August.

During this transition between products pharmacy contractors should continue to work through existing stock levels and are reminded that people collecting for themselves should only be provided with one box of test kits.

Vaccination in Pregnancy Letter

The attached letter “C1363 Vaccination in Pregnancy letter 300721” provides information on pregnancy and COVID-19 Vaccinations.

Community Pharmacy Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Advanced Service

(taken from Primary Care Bulletin Special Seasonal Flu and COVID-19 Vaccination Programme Update – 2 August 2021)

The [Community Pharmacy Service Specification for the upcoming 2021/22 flu season](#) has been published today. This will allow pharmacy contractors to review the documents before the season starts and to prepare for service commencement on 1 September 2021. The supporting Patient Group Direction (PGD) document will be published on our website following final clinical sign off.

Contractors should make sure they are aware of the requirements of the service documents prior to providing the service. Any queries can be directed to the Community Pharmacy generic account england.communitypharmacy@nhs.net.

HEE Provides Two Invaluable Resources for Early Career Pharmacists

Early career pharmacists can tap into two invaluable resources to enhance their clinical practice.

Health Education England’s national NHS Knowledge and Library Services team funds online access to over 130 medical handbooks published by Oxford University Press (OUP) and the clinical decision-making tool, BMJ Best Practice.

Both resources give clinicians an additional boost to their professional expertise and reassuring them they are making the right decisions backed by trusted evidence 24/7.

All titles in the Oxford Medical Handbooks series and the ‘Emergencies In...’ series are included while BMJ Best Practice provides step by step guidance on diagnosis, prognosis, treatment and prevention as well as medical calculators, how-to videos and patient information leaflets.

Get the handbooks at [HEE/OUP site](#) and BMJ Best Practice at bmj.com/hee. Both available via NHS OpenAthens ([instructions here](#)) or if working in community pharmacy please see PSNC’s [advice](#) on how to access.

Initial Education and Training of Pharmacists

The first issue of the first update on the [Initial Education and Training of Pharmacists](#).

This issue provides an update on the Foundation Training Year 2021/22 (the new name for the pre-registration year) and other topics.

INFORMATION



Useful Information

NHS England & Improvement – South West Region Community Pharmacy Contract Management Team contact information

Team Member	Telephone	Address
Jenny Collins	07979 308749	<p>South West Region Postal Addresses</p> <p>NHS England and Improvement – South West Peninsula House Kingsmill Road Tamar View Industrial Estate Saltash, PL12 6LE</p> <p>Or</p> <p>NHS England and Improvement – South West Sanger House, 5220 Valiant Court Gloucester Business Park, Brockworth Gloucester, GL3 4FE</p> <p>Or</p> <p>NHS England and Improvement – South West Jenner House, Avon Way Langley Park Chippenham, SN15 1GG</p> <p><i>Please note all our offices are currently closed, please do not send post and use email wherever possible</i></p> <p>Email: england.pharmacysouthwest@nhs.net</p>
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NHS England & NHS Improvement Regional Controlled Drugs Accountable Officer

Name	Telephone number	Main contact details
Jon Hayhurst	07718130490	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting incidents and concerns www.cdreporting.co.uk Advice and support Authorised witnesses for destruction england.southwestcontrolleddrugs@nhs.net

Webpages

Please see our websites for more information and any blank templates, forms and documents :

[Cornwall & Isles of Scilly, Devon, Bristol, Dorset, North Somerset, Somerset and South Gloucestershire](#)

[BaNES, Gloucestershire, Swindon or Wiltshire](#)

[Interpretation and Translation Services](#)

- To:
- Provider directors of nursing
 - Provider heads of midwifery
 - Provider medical directors
 - Provider clinical directors
 - All GP and pharmacy contractors
 - CCG accountable officers
 - CCG directors of primary care commissioning
 - ICS accountable officers
 - ICS directors of primary care commissioning

NHS England and NHS Improvement
Skipton House
80 London Road
London
SE1 6LH

30 July 2021

- cc.
- Regional chief nurses
 - Regional chief midwives
 - Regional directors of primary care and public health
 - Regional heads of primary care

Dear Colleagues,

Recent internal data from the UK Obstetric Surveillance Service (UKOSS) shows that pregnant women are among week-on-week increases in the numbers of hospital admissions for COVID-19, linked with rising infection rates and the emergence of the Delta variant across England.

All healthcare professionals have a responsibility to proactively encourage pregnant women to get vaccinated against COVID-19. [Public Health England reported last week](#) that 51,724 pregnant women in England have received at least one dose of the vaccine. While this is encouraging to see, hundreds of thousands of pregnant women remain unvaccinated.

COVID-19 infection in pregnancy carries a significant risk of hospital admission and a higher risk of severe illness than for the non-pregnant population – especially so in the third trimester – and a higher risk of preterm birth. Research [published on 25 July by UKOSS](#)¹ suggests that the Delta variant is associated with an increased risk of severe illness among hospitalised pregnant women, compared with the Alpha and ‘wildtype’ variants of previous waves.

The research also shows that of 171 pregnant women admitted to hospital between 16 May and 11 July, none had been fully vaccinated. Three (1.8%) had received a single dose of vaccine. Two doses of vaccine are important to achieve high levels of protection against

severe illness and these figures highlight the importance of increasing uptake in pregnant women.

Since 16 April, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation has recommended that [pregnant women should be offered the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines alongside the general population](#). The Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (RCOG) and the Royal College of Midwives (RCM) now recommend vaccination as one of the best defences against severe infection. In spite of this, vaccine hesitancy has been high among pregnant women.²

This is why the NHS needs to make every contact count in providing evidence-based advice to women on the benefits of vaccination in pregnancy for them and their babies. In particular, maternity and primary care services are asked to take the following immediate actions:

1. Support all GPs, practice nurses, midwives and obstetricians to advise women on vaccination in pregnancy at every antenatal contact.

- As a matter of effective practice, all health care professionals must give objective advice on vaccination – as with any treatment – based on the best available evidence.
- For the latest bite-sized advice for use with women, please see the [Public Health England leaflet for all women of childbearing age, pregnant or breastfeeding](#), and the [RCOG/RCM information leaflet and decision aid](#).
- Women can receive vaccine at any point in pregnancy, but are encouraged to do so as early as possible, to ensure maximum protection in the third trimester. Recent research supports Government advice to receive a follow-up vaccination eight weeks after the first.³
- More detailed guidance and evidence on vaccination in pregnancy for clinicians can be found in [chapter 14a of the Green Book](#), and on the [RCOG website](#).

2. Ensure information and materials are available for women in all antenatal and primary care settings.

- The PHE and RCOG/RCM leaflets should be given to all women in routine antenatal care, and available in all settings. The PHE leaflet is available in a wide range of formats and languages.
- A PHE poster for use in maternity settings can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/covid-19-vaccination-programme> under 'leaflets, posters and resources', along with other vaccination-related resources.

- Services should, in partnership with Maternity Voices Partnerships, consider opportunities for communications to encourage vaccine uptake for all women, noting higher rates of hesitancy among a number of groups. Promotional material for use on social media is also available on the PHE website at the link above.

3. Encourage all maternity staff to receive the protections offered by vaccination.

- May data from the SIREN study suggested that while generally high (84.5%), midwives had the lowest rate of vaccination among health care professional groups.⁴
- Vaccination rates across the service should be reviewed, with leadership continuing supportive conversations with staff who have not yet been vaccinated.
- We will be hosting a webinar for healthcare professionals in August to discuss the COVID-19 vaccines and common concerns. Details to all providers will follow though the national COVID-19 SPOC.

Maternity providers will be asked to confirm in the weekly SitRep that advice is being offered antenatally, and that materials and information are available across settings.

Thank you for carrying out these important actions, and for everything you and your teams are doing to ensure good outcomes for women, families and babies during the pandemic. We know that midwives, obstetricians, GPs and practice nurses will take all necessary steps to make sure pregnant women are aware of the benefits of the vaccine, and are empowered to take action to protect themselves and their babies.



Matthew Jolly
National Clinical Director
for Maternity and Women's
Health



**Professor Jacqueline
Dunkley-Bent**
Chief Midwifery Officer



Dr Jonathan Leach
Medical Director for
COVID-19 Immunisation
and General Practitioner

¹ Vousden N et al. *Impact of SARS-CoV-2 variant on the severity of maternal infection and perinatal outcomes: Data from the UK Obstetric Surveillance System national cohort*, MedRxiv 2021.07.22.21261000; doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.07.22.21261000>

² <https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/news/maternity-colleges-express-concern-over-vaccine-hesitancy-in-pregnant-women/>

³ Sustained T cell immunity, protection and boosting using extended dosing intervals of BNT162b2 mRNA vaccine, PITCH Consortium, 23 July

⁴ Hall VJ, Foulkes S, Saei A, et al. COVID-19 vaccine coverage in health-care workers in England and effectiveness of BNT162b2 mRNA vaccine against infection (SIREN): a prospective, multicentre, cohort study. *Lancet*. 2021;397(10286):1725-1735. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(21)00790-X