

# 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](mailto:england.swscreeningandimms@nhs.net)

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- 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

## Key Deadlines

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- **Items for all Practices**

### RCARS COVID-19 Newsletter 30.07.21

We are pleased to share up to date COVID-19 vaccination advice. Please find attached along with two further related attachments.

### Replacement of Gardasil® by Gardasil 9® vaccine in the NHS national HPV vaccination programme

The vaccine supplied for the HPV immunisation programme will be changing from Gardasil® to Gardasil® 9 during the 2021 to 2022 academic year. PHE will continue to supply vaccine for the HPV programme in the usual way and will issue the remaining central supplies of Gardasil® before the switch to Gardasil® 9, which will occur at some point between late 2021 and early 2022. This change will affect the school-aged immunisation contracts, the GP delivered catch-up service, and MSM programme delivered in GUM, but has no impact on the vaccine schedule which remains as for Gardasil.

The two vaccines are interchangeable, and vaccination should not be delayed due to preference for either vaccine. As such, local supplies of Gardasil® should not be ringfenced for those who have already received a first dose of Gardasil® and local supplies of Gardasil® should be used up prior to switching to Gardasil® 9.

The bipartite letter available here has been published in order to support school-aged vaccination providers to communicate with parents and adolescents and ensure that consent processes are considered in good time prior to the vaccine being available. Further details will be shared in relation to any system changes required to support the move to Gardasil® 9

### Changes to the neonatal BCG immunisation programme

Please note the upcoming changes to the neonatal BCG immunisation programme webinar. This webinar will take place on Wednesday 4 August 2021, 13:00 to 14:30 online via Microsoft Teams Live Events.

The webinar will be hosted by Public Health England (PHE) and will be jointly delivered with NHS partners. The changes to the neonatal BCG programme in September this year aims to address the current mixed model for BCG vaccination delivery, strengthen monitoring of the programme, including improved identification, recording of infants eligible for vaccination and the introduction of the Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) Evaluation.

This webinar will outline the changes to the neonatal programme; moving BCG vaccination from at birth to at 28 days as well as providing information on TB, BCG administration and some examples of certain scenarios.

To see full details about the programme please visit the webinar website where you can also register to attend.

## AUG 2021 SOUTH WEST SHINGLES CAMPAIGN AND TOOLKIT

### *REMINDER OF UPCOMING SHINGLES CAMPAIGN*

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 \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/94848/shingles_vaccination_eligibility_poster_-_gov.uk).

If you have any queries regarding either the toolkit or the campaign please email [england.swscreeningandimms@nhs.net](mailto:england.swscreeningandimms@nhs.net)

## Changing the timing of the neonatal BCG immunisation programme to a 28-day immunisation programme

The publication 'BCG immunisation programme: changes from September 2021 letter' is published, [available here](#). This letter provides information on the forthcoming change to the timing of the NHS neonatal Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) immunisation programme to a 28 day immunisation programme. This change relates to babies born on or after 1 September 2021 who will follow the new schedule. The forthcoming evaluation of the addition of screening for Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) to the routine newborn screening test at five days of age makes it necessary to move the BCG vaccination to when a SCID screening outcome will be available, which will be by 28 days of age. This is to ensure that babies with SCID are not given the live attenuated BCG vaccine which is contraindicated in these babies.

### Changes to the neonatal BCG immunisation programme webinar

Wednesday 4 August 2021, 13:00 to 14:30 online via Microsoft Teams Live Events

This webinar will be hosted by Public Health England (PHE) and will be jointly delivered with NHS partners. The session will outline the changes to the neonatal programme; moving BCG vaccination from at birth to at 28 days as well as providing information on TB, BCG administration and some examples of certain scenarios.

To see full details about the programme please visit the [webinar website](#) where you can also register to attend.

## Cervical Sample Taker Register

In line with the national service specification for the NHS Cervical Screening programme, there is a South West Cervical Screening Sample Taker Register (STR). All health professionals that are cervical sample takers in the South West region are required to be on the STR, **including doctors**. It is important to ensure that all training records and contact details are uploaded and kept up to date.

The practice lead for your GP practice is responsible for ensuring all new and existing sample takers working at your setting are on the STR and that their records are up to date. This includes training records for sample takers who are required to attend training and updates. The practice lead is usually the Practice Manager or the Lead Nurse.

GPs are required to sign the 'Sample Taker Confirmation' which can be accessed once logged into the STR.

Access to the Cervical STR can be found [here](#)

The most up-to-date STR User Guide can be found [here](#)

Please see the attached Cervical Sample Taker Register Guide 2021 for further information and support

- **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