



Public Health GP Bulletin

Issue 68: 17th December 2021

Section 7a: Screening & Immunisations

About this bulletin:

This weekly bulletin is the NHSE/I South West Integrated Public Health Team's main method of communicating with Practice Managers in BNSSG, BSW, Cornwall & IOS, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire and Somerset.

The bulletin contains important Public Health information relating to Section 7a Screening and Immunisation programmes 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 at england.swscreeningandimms@nhs.net

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- ICARS COVID-19 Newsletter
- FOR ACTION: Prioritising COVID vaccination for your pregnant patients

ICARS COVID-19 Newsletter

We are pleased to bring you the latest updates from our ICARS service. This newsletter is attached to your email along with associated documents.

FOR ACTION: Prioritising COVID vaccination for your pregnant patients

Yesterday the [JCVI](#) announced that pregnant people should be considered a clinical risk group within the COVID-19 vaccination programme and urged pregnant people and their families to access primary vaccinations and boosters.

Latest data published on the 11th October shows that 1 in 5 of the most critically ill Covid patients receiving ECMO are pregnant people who have not been vaccinated.

There have been over 90,000 Covid-19 vaccinations in pregnancy in England and Scotland and a further 160,000 in the US, with no specific concerns raised about safety and no subsequent harm to the baby

The vaccine can be given at any point in pregnancy but it is encouraged to do so as soon as possible, to ensure maximum protection in the third trimester. In the later stages of pregnancy (after 28 weeks) there is higher risk of admission to intensive care, premature birth, pre-eclampsia, and stillbirth in those who have covid-19.

How you can help:

- Discuss covid-19 vaccinations with any pregnant person who attends primary care
- Consider fast track access to covid-19 vaccinations for pregnant people and their families
- Inform staff of change in clinical risk group and advice for pregnant people to get vaccinated
- Share resources on social media
- Display [posters](#) in surgeries or waiting room screens
- Work collaboratively with local midwifery services to ensure a joined-up offer

Further resources:

[RCOG decision making aids](#)

[COVID-19 vaccination: women of childbearing age, currently pregnant or breastfeeding](#)

[Chapter 14a of the Green Book](#)