

South West Vaccination & Screening Team

Section 7a Bulletin


South West Collaborative
Commissioning Hub



Issue 157: 6th October 2023

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ICARS Newsletter

Please note the ICARS newsletter is now circulated fortnightly. The following issue will be included in next week's bulletin.

COVID-19 PGD and National Protocol v4.00 (Adults, Includes Spikevax XBB)

We are pleased to inform you that the updated PGD and National Protocol for COVID-19 (Adults) v4.00 have now been published, to include Spikevax XBB. Copies are attached for your convenience.

- The **PGD** is attached and available here: [Coronavirus » Patient Group Directions \(PGDs\) for COVID-19 vaccines \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)
- **National Protocol** attached and here: [National protocol for COVID-19 vaccine \(adults\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- The vaccine **SOPs and vaccine characteristics** information provided by Specialist Pharmacy Service can be found [here](#).

As the National Protocol has been given Ministerial approval and the NHSE PGD is signed off by the medical director, organisational sign off is not required for use in England. However, providers should not amend or add to the clinical content of the documents. Only section 7 of both documents is editable.

Vaccinating teams should read the new documents, familiarise themselves with all of the updates, and complete the authorisation process ahead of using the vaccines.

NHS Diabetic Eye Screening intervals communications toolkit

To support messaging about the changes to the NHS Diabetic Eye Screening intervals, a communications toolkit has been produced for regional/local communications. It includes the following information:

- Background to the changes.
- Key messages.
- Newsletter/bulletin copy template.
- Posters, information screen assets and social media cards.
- Suggested reactive media lines.
- Links to key online information.

Please note that updates and additional materials (including a GP video) will be uploaded onto Futures as required.

Resources can be accessed via:

- Future NHS Collaboration Platform – [Extended Intervals Communications Materials - Vaccinations and Screening - FutureNHS Collaboration Platform](#)
- CommsLink - <https://future.nhs.uk/CommsLink/view?objectId=46742000>

Further Information

If you have any questions or wish to provide feedback, please contact the SW Vaccination and Screening Team at england.swvast@nhs.net. Back issues of these bulletins and attachments are available on the NHS England website [here](#). **Please note that if there are no items for your information a GP Bulletin will not be circulated.**