

South West Vaccination & Screening Bulletin


South West Collaborative
Commissioning Hub



Issue 166: 15th December 2023

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SCREENING:

No items this week.

VACCINATIONS:

NEW: NHS England Vaccination Strategy

From Steve Russell, Chief Delivery Officer and National Director of Vaccinations and Screening at NHS England:

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for your continued efforts across all vaccination programmes.

Today, we have published our national vaccination strategy, setting out proposals to improve planning and delivery of services, building on successes from COVID-19 and established flu and routine immunisation programmes.

The strategy is available here: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/nhs-vaccination-strategy> (and see attachment)

Our ambition is to improve services by allowing more freedom and flexibility to local neighbourhood teams and ICSs, to enable teams to go further to increase population-wide vaccination uptake and coverage while reducing inequalities.

We hope that the strategy will help make it easier to get vaccinated in whatever places are most convenient, [increasingly alongside blood pressure tests and other important health checks](#).

We'll be supporting teams to reach out into local communities, to help people make sense of vaccines and answer any questions they may have, with the flexibility to plan and deliver local vaccine services to match local needs.

By using their workforce and resources, this strategy will support systems to put vaccination at the heart of prevention and other health services.

And – whether it's MMR, flu or COVID-19 – you will be able to see more of your vaccine history on the NHS App, in the palm of your hand.

I am clear that the proof of our vaccination strategy's success will be in its ability to stop the spread of infections such as measles, bring us one step closer in our efforts to eliminate Cervical cancer, and in helping to prevent as many people as possible becoming seriously unwell and hospitalised over winter.

The development of the strategy would not have been possible without the expertise of our collaborative partners and a wide-range stakeholders involved in designing and delivering vaccination services in local communities, including the public, UKHSA, Association of Directors of Public Health, Age UK, Royal Society for Public Health, Jo's Trust, National Voices and ABPI. The detailed engagement we received helped us shape our proposals. In addition, my colleagues in NHS England regional teams were pivotal partners and central to the development of the recommendations, including working with their ICB colleagues to gather views and examples of good practice. I am also grateful to the members of our 'sounding board' who acted as critical friends.

Local health and care systems will be key to delivering this vision and I am looking forward to working together to implement this strategy, and to help people live longer, healthier lives. I look forward to hearing your feedback and making the vision set out in this strategy a reality for the communities we serve.

Kind Regards,

Steve Russell

REMINDER: ICARS Cold Chain Audit

Vaccines are sensitive biological substances that when too hot or too cold can quickly lose their efficacy. If vaccines are stored outside of the recommended temperature range, the vaccine may fail to create the desired immune response and result in sub-optimal protection against vaccine preventable diseases.

The purpose of the vaccine cold chain is to maintain vaccine product quality from the time of manufacturer until the point of administration. This is fulfilled by ensuring that vaccines are handled, stored and transported within the appropriate temperature range according to the manufacturer's summary of product characteristics.

ICARS would like to request sites storing vaccines to complete our annual audit tool available here, <https://forms.office.com/e/a2DSzQFr4H>. This audit tool was adapted from the [Oxford Vaccine Group](#) (Vaccine storage audit) and should be used in conjunction with:

- The Green Book: Storage, distribution and disposal of vaccines ([chapter 3](#)).
- [The Protocol for ordering, storing and handling vaccines](#).
- The survey also links to the standards required by [CQC standard 4: medicines management \(healthcare services\) -vaccine storage in GP practice](#).

Please direct any queries to the South West Immunisation Clinical Advice and Response Service (ICARS) at england.swicars@nhs.uk.

NEW: PGD Validity Extensions

The following PGDs have had their expiry dates extended to coincide with the expiries of the longest-dated stock of Zostavax® and ViaTIM® (combined hep A and typhoid vaccine):

- Zostavax® v11.00 PGD is now extended to 31 October 2024
- Hepatitis A and Typhoid v3.00 PGD now expires on 31 May 2024

These validity extensions have been authorised for the vaccination of patients registered with NHS medical practices in the South West of England and are available at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/south/info-professional/pgd/south-west/downloads/> (and attached) along with the corresponding PGD. An FAQs document relating to the extension of PGD expiry dates is also attached for your reference, but if you have any further queries please contact england.swicars@nhs.net.

Note that PGDs can only be used as legal authorisation for administration or supply of prescription-only medicines by a [limited number](#) of registered health professions. Other staff that cannot prescribe will require a patient specific direction (guidance [here](#)).

Shingles Vaccination

Please be aware that whilst the rollout of Shingles vaccination programmes in England and Scotland are similar they have been rolled out differently. This means that some patients may be eligible for Shingles vaccination based on age in Scotland, but not in England and vice versa. As a result, we wanted to highlight that the Scottish Shingles Calculator should **NOT** be used to determine eligibility for patients in England.

Attached is a copy of the Shingles Calculator for England that can help you to identify if a patient is eligible or not for the vaccination.

Below are some links that patients can be directed to for further information

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/shingles-vaccination/>

[Why you may have to wait for your shingles vaccine - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/why-you-may-have-to-wait-for-your-shingles-vaccine)

[There's a vaccine to help protect you from the pain of shingles \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/611119/there-s-a-vaccine-to-help-protect-you-from-the-pain-of-shingles.pdf)

If you have any queries on eligibility please direct them to england.swicars@nhs.net

Ardens Template

Ardens have created Shingles Eligibility Searches ([3.23 Shingles Eligibility Searches : Ardens EMIS Web](#)) and these have recently been updated . They have separated out all the 'immunocompromised' patients which can then be reviewed by yourselves in practice to confirm if they meet the 'severely immunocompromised' as per the Green Book definition. A 'requires vaccination against shingles' code can be added for those patients identified as needing vaccination.

FOR SOMERSET PRACTICES ONLY - Women's Health Survey re: NHS cancer screening programmes

Please can you share this online survey with colleagues and your patients.

Nationally and across Somerset, participation in the NHS cancer screening programmes (breast, cervical and bowel) is declining yet we know, early detection improves the likelihood of successful treatment. So, in collaboration with NHS Somerset ICB, we are doing a piece of work to understand why women in Somerset do and don't take part in the NHS cancer screening programmes.

Our Ask of You

1. Please can you share this link (<https://response.questback.com/nhssomerset/healthsurvey/nhs/cancerscreening>) with all the women in your practice and ask that if they feel

comfortable in doing so, they complete the online survey sharing their views and experiences of the NHS cancer Screening programmes

2. Please can you share the attached email members of your Patient Participation Group
3. Please can you upload the attached PowerPoint slide to the screens in the waiting rooms, and if possible, upload to your website

The closing date is Friday 12th January 2024

COVID-19:

No items this week.

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 Bulletin will not be circulated.**