

[View this email in your browser](#)



# Primary Care Connect

THE WEEKLY PRIMARY CARE UPDATE FOR  
HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Issue 12 | 18 August 2021

Dear colleagues,

You will be aware of the national shortage of blood bottles. The duration of this shortage is uncertain (possibly 1-4 months). To achieve the significant reduction in use required we are going to need to do the following please:

- Avoid duplicate tests (check previous requests on ICE)
- Avoid testing too frequently (in and out of hospital - follow national minimum interval guidelines). This Specialist Pharmacy Service guideline is also helpful for drug monitoring purposes.
- Clinically triage the tests for patients who are already booked for monitoring blood tests, including those who are yet to arrange blood tests and defer the tests for people who are stable and low risk.



We recognise that many patients have waited for months through COVID-19 to come for their routine monitoring, but for others **who are stable and low risk, we have been asked to safely defer their tests until we have a solution to this shortage.**

You are best placed to work out who/ how to review those booked for blood testing and those ringing up for routine tests. Creating a list of people who can be considered and discussed with a clinical team if necessary prior to having their tests done, seems a pragmatic step forward.

The national guidance specifically mentions examples of reducing vitamin D, allergy, routine infertility testing, repeat thyroid function tests and wellness checks. However reducing/stopping these alone won't achieve the reduction required.

Please keep a look out for updates on the latest guidance when requesting pathology.

Clarity of the existing stock and monitoring of the reduced supply will be managed and shared across our system and via your local links. Thanks to all of you who have already helped with this.

We've prepared the [below communication](#) to ensure that we have consistent messaging with our patients.

If you have specific questions or ideas on how we further make safe and sensible reductions, then please email me - [nicola.deckernhccg@nhs.net](mailto:nicola.deckernhccg@nhs.net).

Thank you for your support.

**Dr Nicola Decker**

**Clinical Leader**

**Hampshire Southampton and Isle of Wight CCG, working with Portsmouth as we become an Integrated Care System**

---

## Contents

### Requires action

[BCG to change to a 28-day immunisation programme](#)

[Supporting pregnant women with COVID-19 vaccination uptake](#)

[Workforce considerations for phase 3 children's COVID-19 vaccination](#)

[Serious shortage protocol – Fluoxetine 10mg tablets](#)

[Reminder about guidance for care home workers to be fully vaccinated](#)  
[Afghanistan locally employed staff ex-gratia scheme](#)

### **Resources and training**

[Blood tube supply issues](#)

[August bank holiday assets available](#)

[New training opportunities available](#)

[How to submit a story for the bulletin - we want your news!](#)

### **For information**

[Isolating at Home - Generic July 2021](#)

[Clinell Universal Wipes update](#)

[Updated guidance on NHS staff and student self-isolation and return to work following COVID-19 contact](#)

---

**BCG to change to a 28-day immunisation programme**



Public Health England [has announced forthcoming changes](#) to the NHS neonatal Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) immunisation programme.

From **1 September 2021**, eligible babies born on or after this date should be offered the BCG vaccine at 28 days or soon after.

Providers are required to check the record for a negative Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) result, or confirmation that the child was not offered SCID screening, before administering the BCG vaccine.

BCG immunisation appointment letters should include instructions for parents to bring the Red Book and the letter with the outcome of newborn bloodspot screening.

---

## Supporting pregnant women with COVID-19 vaccination uptake



The NHS recommends that women who are pregnant or breastfeeding to take up the offer of having both doses of a COVID-19 vaccination in order to protect both themselves and their baby from the virus.

Updated information on COVID in pregnancy for health professionals to use, to support women who are pregnant, in decision-making around Covid vaccination is available:

[COVID 19 vaccination in pregnancy vaccinator checklist](#)

[2021-06-30-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-in-pregnancy.pdf \(rcog.org.uk\)](#)

[New study into COVID-19 vaccine dose interval for pregnant women - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

---

## **Workforce considerations for phase 3 children's COVID-19 vaccination**



This pack contains information to support phase 3 planning for children within the COVID-19 vaccination programme. This document covers:

- Design principles for both adult and child vaccination
- Clinical red lines and training requirements for child vaccination, based on current programme assumptions
- This document is based on the current assumptions of the programme and are subject to change based on JCVI guidance release

---

## **Serious shortage protocol – Fluoxetine 10mg tablets**



The Department of Health and Social Care shares the below message for all colleagues in primary care:

We are writing to inform you that because of ongoing supply issues, the Serious Shortage Protocol currently in effect for fluoxetine 10mg tablets (SSP05) is being varied to extend the end date, which was previously Friday 13 August 2021.

**The end date for SSP05 will now be Friday 12 November 2021.**

If you have any questions regarding the SSPs please contact the NHS Prescription Service:

Email: [nhsbsa.prescriptionservices@nhsbsa.nhs.uk](mailto:nhsbsa.prescriptionservices@nhsbsa.nhs.uk)

Telephone: 0300 330 1349

Textphone: 18001 0300 330 1349

[You can access the latest information about SSPs \(including supporting guidance\).](#)

---

**Reminder about guidance for care home workers to be fully vaccinated**



Earlier this month the Department for Health and Social Care updated its regulations which now asks for all care home workers to be vaccinated.

From 11 November 2021, new regulations will require all care home workers, and anyone working or volunteering inside the indoor premises of a CQC-regulated care home providing nursing or personal care, to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (for a two dose vaccine that would mean both doses), unless they have a medical exemption.

**Important dates to note:**

**22 July** - The 16-week grace period started, following approval of the regulations by Parliament.

**16 September** - Any staff or volunteers who are receiving a two-dose vaccine will need to get the first dose by this date in order to be fully vaccinated and be able to continue their role in a care home by the end of the grace period.

**11 November** - The regulations come into force. From this day onwards, it will be a requirement for anyone working or volunteering in care homes, and visiting professionals, to prove their vaccination status or that they have a medical exemption.

---

## Afghanistan locally employed staff ex-gratia scheme

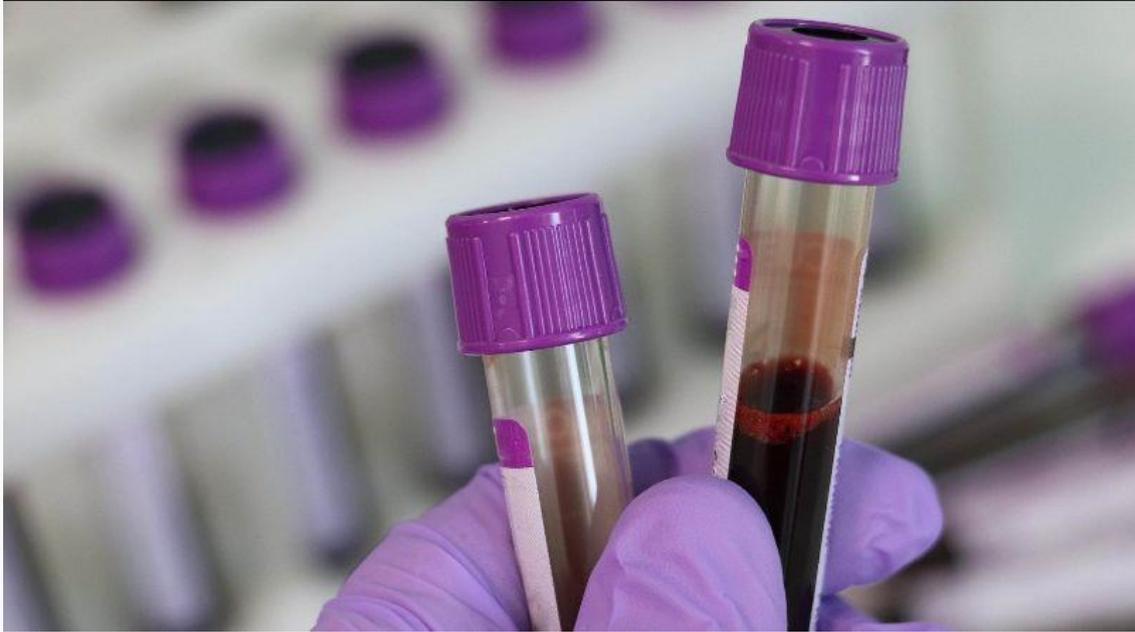


Soon after individuals and their families arrive into the UK under the Afghanistan locally employed staff ex-gratia scheme, they should be supported to register with a GP practice and attend a New Patient Health Check.

This [resource](#) is intended to help primary care professionals to assess and address the health needs of individuals relocated through the scheme.

---

## Blood tube supply issues



The following wording can be used on websites or to help with patient conversations around a reduction of blood tests:

There is currently an international shortage of blood bottles used for taking samples and clinicians working in GP practices, hospitals, community and mental health trusts and ambulance trusts have been asked to suspend non-essential blood tests.

Our clinicians and managers in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight are working together to be more efficient. We will ensure we don't waste blood bottles and that we don't duplicate tests which have already been done. We are being thoughtful about which tests are ordered and prioritising those tests which will have an immediate impact on the diagnosis or treatment.

Our clinicians and their teams are working hard to prioritise our blood tests and we appreciate your patience whilst we put in place systems to manage this difficulty safely.

We would like to reassure all our patients that this disruption in supply should not affect any essential blood tests and any tests that are delayed will be rescheduled as soon as possible. We are working closely with NHS England to follow their guidance. We will continue to provide you with updates regarding this and thank you for your support.

---

**August bank holiday assets available**



With a Bank Holiday coming up (Monday, August 30), the Communications and Engagement Team have created two communications templates.

One set is to remind people to order repeat prescriptions and the other is to support with messaging for services available over the Bank Holiday:

Repeat prescriptions Twitter 1  
Repeat prescriptions Twitter 2  
Repeat prescriptions Facebook 1  
Repeat prescriptions Facebook 2  
Bank Holiday Twitter  
Bank Holiday Facebook  
A4 poster which can be edited

Here is some wording which may be useful:

#### **Phone message 1**

Hello, unfortunately we are closed today as it is a Bank Holiday. To find more information about services available to you, visit our practice website **{insert details}** or our Facebook page **{insert details}**. Alternatively you can call NHS 111. Thank you.

#### **Phone message 2**

Hello, unfortunately we are closed today as it is a Bank Holiday. These pharmacies are open today **{insert details}** The **{Walk-in centre/Urgent Treatment Centre/Minor Injuries Unit is open from xx to xx}**. Alternatively you can call NHS 111. Thank you.

#### **Practice website message**

Dear patient,

The practice is closed today as it is a Bank Holiday (Monday, August 30, 2021). If you need help there are a number of options available to you:

#### Pharmacies

Here are the pharmacies open in our area and their contact details **{insert details}**. They can help with minor illnesses, headaches, stomach upsets and bites and stings.

#### Walk-in centre/Urgent Treatment Centre/Minor Injuries Unit

You can go to **{insert name and opening hours}** for help. They can help with sprains, cuts and broken bones.

#### NHS 111

Visit [111.nhs.uk](https://111.nhs.uk) or call 111 if you're feeling unwell, you need advice or you're not sure what to do.

#### Emergency department

If you are experiencing heavy blood loss, choking, have signs of a stroke, finding it hard to breath or think you're having a heart attack, then call 999.

The practice will be open again from Tuesday at **{insert time}**.

Thank you.

From the team.

---

## New training opportunities available



[Please check the GP portal for the latest training opportunities.](#)

Added this week: FREE Webinar - perinatal mental health training.

---

## How to submit a story for the bulletin - we want your news!



Welcome to our new-look bulletin - we hope you are finding it useful!

If you have any content you would like to see included in Primary Care Connect then we would love to hear from you.

When you submit a story please provide the following:

- **A short headline**
- **A few paragraphs to say what the story is**
- **Clearly include any links or documents that accompany the piece**
- **A suitable image or a suggestion of the type of image to go with the piece**

Deadline for content is **midday Tuesday**. Items submitted after this will be considered as to whether it needs to be included in the following day's bulletin, or if it can be held for an extra week.

Please send content to [hsiccg.gpportal@nhs.net](mailto:hsiccg.gpportal@nhs.net)

---

**Primary Care Connect Portal**

**Wessex LMC**

**NHS England bulletin**



*Copyright © 2021 Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight Clinical Commissioning Group, All rights reserved.*

**Our mailing address is:**

[hsiccg.gpportal@nhs.net](mailto:hsiccg.gpportal@nhs.net)

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, you can [unsubscribe from this list](#).