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Primary Care Connect

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

Issue 15 | 8 September 2021

Dear colleagues,

This week is Know Your Numbers week – an annual national campaign to raise awareness of hypertension and encourage people to check their blood pressure.

This year's campaign focuses on encouraging people to explore Home Blood Pressure Monitoring (HBPM) and how this approach can reduce pressure on GP practices.

HBPM ties in with the national NHS England Blood Pressure @Home (BP@Home) programme which Hampshire and the Isle of Wight is leading on. You may recall that we have been given 5,500 BP units which have been shared among practices where there is a high prevalence of cardiovascular disease (CVD).

What's great is AccurX Pro has now been acquired for all our practices to support the BP@Home programme with the use of its Florey functionality.



By people capturing their data at home, it is hoped more people will come forward to speak to their practice about their results and potential diagnosis. Let's not forget capturing individuals' blood [pressure is part of QOF](#).

Given primary care is stretched by a multitude of pressures, including unprecedented patient demand and the unforeseen impact of blood bottle shortages, it would be understandable to see Know Your Numbers Week as yet another burden which could add to our workload.

However, it could equally be seen as a chance to focus on an area of our work which has huge impact on health outcomes. CVD after all claims 136,000 lives every a year in the UK - as many as the number of people who have sadly been lost to COVID-19.

Effective use of practice administrative teams, digital tools like AccuRx and resources circulated as part of the BP@Home roll out can all support how we better capture the burden of hypertension in our communities and how we manage it more effectively.

Dr Rory Honney
CVD Prevention lead – Hampshire and Isle of Wight

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HIOW Population Health Management (PHM) Programme



Primary care is key to the development of our Hampshire and Isle of Wight Population Health Management (PHM) Programme which is now underway across the ICS footprint.

[Dr Nicola Decker has recorded a special video message](#) for colleagues to explain what PHM is and how we need your help in bringing GP practice data together with other sources to tailor care and support for people and the communities they live in.

You can read more information about PHM, the benefits to both primary care and our patients and how practices are getting involved [here](#).

A general PowerPoint presentation introduction to view and share with colleagues is available [here](#).

For any questions or to find out more, please [contact the programme team](#).

Improving our internal communications – your feedback is needed



For the past 18 months Hampshire, Southampton, Portsmouth and Isle of Wight CCG teams have been closely working to identify opportunities to collaborate and be innovative with our work with a shared learning approach.

The communications and engagement team wants to ensure information is sent to practices in a clear, consistent way which avoids duplication and offers people one place to receive national, regional and local information.

Feedback from practices across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight have expressed concerns on occasion about the volume, confusion and conflicting information received from various sources.

As we come together as a statutory Integrated Care System (ICS) from April 2022, it

gives us a timely opportunity to review the communication and engagement to ensure we are providing you with a consistent and trusted way to share updates, while avoiding unnecessary duplication.

We are asking anyone who works in primary care to [please share their views by answering five short questions](#) to help inform our internal communications to GP practices. Please share this link with team members who may not receive this bulletin but would like to respond.

Supply issue with Nalcrom®(sodium cromoglicate) 100mg capsules



The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued the following Medicine Supply Notification:

[Nalcrom®\(sodium cromoglicate\) 100mg capsules](#)

Where patients have insufficient supplies until the resupply date, clinicians should consider:

- prescribing unlicensed imports of sodium cromoglicate 100mg capsules. Prescribers should work with pharmacy teams to ensure orders are placed within appropriate time frames as lead times may vary (see supporting information below); or
- referring patients to specialists for consideration of an alternative product, taking into

account local prescribing guidelines, age and condition being treated, if unlicensed imports are not appropriate .

**Supply issue with Xylocaine® 1% (lidocaine)
with adrenaline 100micrograms/20mL
(1:200,000) solution for injection vials**



DHSC has also issued the following Medicine Supply Notification:

[Xylocaine®](#)

General Practice and other sites that use Xylocaine 1% with adrenaline 100micrograms/20ml should:

- note the available alternative products (see supporting information); and
 - consult the Medicines Information department at their local NHS Trust for advice where required.
-

ACR home testing for people with diabetes now available across all GP practices - set up in 1 hour



A smartphone app and home test kit enabling people to complete their annual albumin to creatinine ratio (ACR) urinary test from home using their mobile phone camera, is now available across all GP practices in Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight CCG. The partnership with health technology company Healthy.io, enables practices to engage with previously hard-to-reach patients and address any backlog in chronic disease management for people living with diabetes.

Funding for this scheme is available for a year, and future funding will be subject to business case submission and CCG board approval.

Key information:

- **Significantly improves uptake of ACR testing**, quickly identifying at-risk patients and ensuring early detection of kidney damage
- **Release additional funding in your practice** by achieving locally enhanced service targets for ACR
- **Release primary care capacity** - no more processing urine samples or chasing up missed tests
- **92% of patients find the test 'easy' or 'very easy'** to use, 96% preferred testing

at home vs. testing at the clinic

- **Quick and easy to implement** - time commitment per practice is 1 hour for set-up, after which the service will be fulfilled by Healthy.io

[To sign up to find out more about the service and to begin the process of setting it up in your practice, click on this link.](#)

Here you will fill out a short form with your contact details, after which you will be prompted to book an initial call in with the Healthy.io team.

On this short call the team will explain how the service works, take any questions you may have and talk through the steps that need to be completed in order to set-up the service. Completing these steps takes less than one hour, and can be done by anyone with IT rights in your practice. Once set-up is finished, the entire testing process will be managed by Healthy.io, with patient results feeding directly into your systems for follow-up where needed.

Junk email reminder



We have been made aware that some emails are being delivered into GP practice junk email boxes. This includes individual patient e-consults.

Please ensure you have a system in place to check practice junk email boxes are checked on a regular basis.

World Suicide Prevention Day



Every suicide is a tragedy and leaves a huge hole in the lives of those left behind. The past 18 months have had a huge impact on everyone and it is even more important now that those who are struggling know where to get help.

Friday 10 September 2021 is World Suicide Prevention Day and because we have so many important messages to share, Southern Health has decided to dedicate a whole week to suicide prevention. The campaign which has been running throughout this week, focuses not only on reaching high-risk groups of people, but also sharing the message that suicide can impact anyone.

For more information and social media assets, Southern Health has produced a [guide](#).

Next Generation GP Wessex 2021 applications open



Applications are now open and will close on Wednesday 15 September (see link below).

This nationally expanding and fully-funded programme seeks to inspire emerging future leaders in general practice, and this year is no exception, with a fantastic line up of workshops and interviews by foremost leaders in healthcare as shown below.

The programme consists of six virtual evening events from September 2021 to January 2022 delivered via Zoom.

Why?

Next Generation GP aims to:

- **ENERGISE:** through access to the stories, perspectives and expertise of inspiring leaders at the forefront of primary care.
- **ENGAGE:** through a supportive network of like-minded trainees and early-career GPs
- **EMPOWER:** through a series of workshops designed to increase your ability to shape care within and beyond your organisation

What?

Each evening session will consist of either a workshop, talk, facilitated group work session or interview with an inspiring national and/or local leader, with a chance for the audience to engage and ask their own questions.

Who for?

Next Generation GP is for GP trainees and early career GPs (up to 7 years post CCT) with an interest in health policy and the wider NHS. Applications will be accepted from anywhere in the UK but priority will be given to those working in the Wessex region.

Find the person specification here: <http://bit.ly/nextgenspec>

Feedback from previous years

This increasingly popular programme has had some fantastic feedback over the years. Here are some from last year:

- **'Next Generation GP helped me to think about how I can be a leader of tomorrow, today'**

- 'I feel more confident in my abilities and will be more proactive in putting forward my ideas'
- I feel inspired that anyone can be a leader, and have learnt some good tips on how to feel/act like one'
- 'I now consider myself to be a leader'

How to apply

Applications are now open via <https://bit.ly/applyNGGPwessex> and will close on Wednesday 15 September.

Applicants are invited to submit a very brief expression of interest outlining their motivation for applying to the programme.

Please note, as the programme is fully funded, applicants must be able to commit to attending five out of six events.

For more information, visit our website at: <http://bit.ly/NextGGP>

A video about the programme can be found at: https://youtu.be/uri4_mxbrTk

Get in touch with us if you have any

questions: nextgenerationgpwessex@gmail.com

**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

An update on the Special Allocation Scheme



From 1 September 2021, the NHS clinical commissioning groups covering Hampshire, Southampton, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth have awarded a new contract for the provision of GP services under the Special Allocation Scheme (SAS).

Partnering Health Limited have been appointed to offer the service. They have delivered the scheme in Portsmouth and some areas of Hampshire for some time. In the initial period of operation, patients will be able to seek medical advice over the phone, with in-person appointments being offered at a number of locations across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Online services will be available shortly.

Referral routes for practices remain the same via Primary Care Support England (PCSE). Please speak to your local team if you have any queries.

GPwSI in eating disorders



Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust is looking for a GPwSI to join their established trust wide Community Eating Disorders Service.

The service operates a Hub and Spoke Model, with the Hub based at April House in Southampton and the spokes operating from the Bluebell Rooms at Kingston Crescent Surgery, Portsmouth and the Bridge Centre, Basingstoke.

For more information see the job advert [here](#).

Primary Care Connect Portal

Wessex LMC

NHS England bulletin



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