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# Primary Care Connect

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

Issue 27 | 1 December 2021

Dear colleagues,

Over the last week many of our assumptions and plans regarding the COVID-19 vaccination programme have been turned on their head. Many of you will have joined the national webinar on Monday or heard the Prime Minister speak on Tuesday.

There is a huge ask on our health system to ramp up capacity within our vaccine programme at a time when pressures on primary care have never been greater. I'm sure many of you will be concerned and worried about this.

Across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight plans are developing to increase vaccine capacity across all delivery models. We are working with community pharmacies to increase the number of sites offering vaccines.



Solent NHS Trust, which run our mass vaccination centres, have committed to doubling their capacity. From this weekend we are deploying a roving model with mobile units visiting the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth, Gosport and Southampton (our areas of lowest uptake) over the course of the weekend. Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust which is supporting PCNs with delivering vaccines to housebound patients and have offered to support PCNs expand their existing workforce.

We wait to hear whether or not there will be changes to QoF or other areas of our work but we can not wait for others to act before we plan our next phase of COVID-19 vaccination.

I would ask all of you involved in the vaccine programme to look carefully at what it would take for you to increase capacity within your programme.

If there are things we can do as a system to support you, whether it be workforce, estate or communications material then please get in touch - [m.nisbet@nhs.net](mailto:m.nisbet@nhs.net)

Thank you for all you do both in and out of the vaccine programme to help our population stay healthy and safe.

**Dr Matt Nisbet**

**COVID-19 vaccination programme lead – Hampshire and Isle of Wight**

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## **Scheme for patients to have access to their medical data online delayed until April 2022**



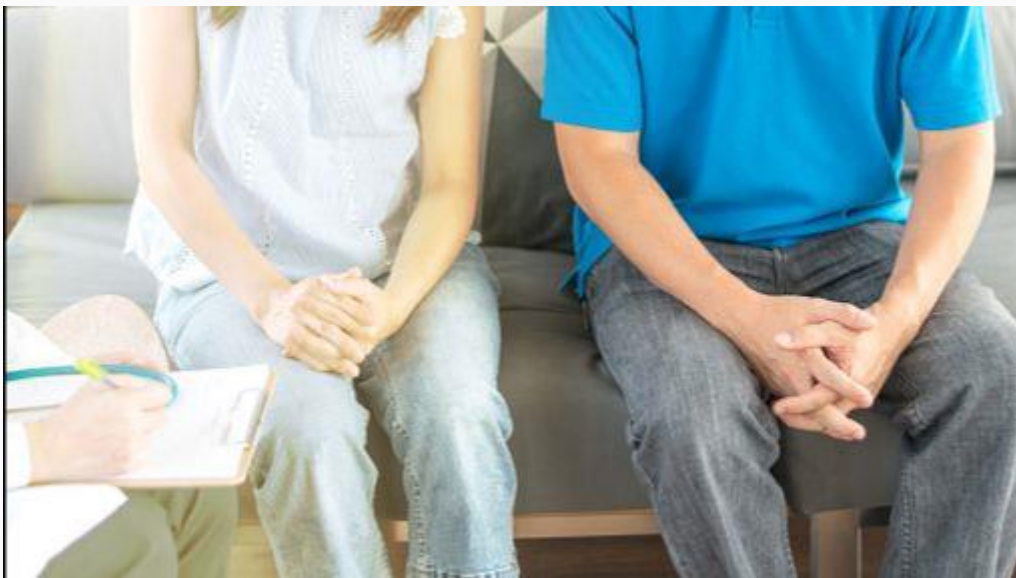
A national project to enable patients with online accounts to be able to view all new entries in their GP health record has been delayed from going live this month.

This change will now occur in April 2022 and will apply to all practices using TPP and EMIS systems. Arrangements with practices that use Vision as the clinical system are under discussion.

This is in response to issues raised by general practices that further time is needed to prepare staff for the changes and to provide training on ensuring sensitive information is hidden from patient view as it's entered on systems.

NHSX also aim to enable patients to request their historic coded records from 2022 through the NHS App. [You can read more about the change on the NHS Digital website.](#)

## Infection prevention control good practice guidance updated



The Infection Prevention Control (IPC) team would like to highlight two updates to IPC measures good practice nationally.

The first is around the use of ultrasound gel, actions for practices are:

- Review the use of US gel to ensure sterile gel is available and used for procedures meeting the requirements set out in the document
- Please ensure the general principles of safe use are embedded into practice
- Although the guidance is specific to ultrasound gel, the principles can be used for other products such as lubricating gel and KY jelly

The second is an update from the UK Health Security Agency in regards to gastrointestinal illness associated with oyster consumption.

Actions for practices to allow for the identification of potential cases please ensure the following is undertaken:

- Ensure that Norovirus is specifically requested on samples for any reports of cases of diarrhoea and vomiting with potential links to consumption of shellfish or settings with possible case reports
- Please ensure that relevant clinical details are entered when requesting Norovirus samples

Please contact your local quality team or Infection Prevention Nurse if you require any support.

## Social media assets asking people to wait for their COVID-19 booster vaccination invitation



We are aware some practices are receiving an overwhelming number of requests from the public regarding the COVID-19 booster vaccination following the Government announcement that the programme will be widened.

To support practices with messaging asking patients to wait until they are invited for their vaccination, and a polite request not to call the practice to find out more information, a series of social media assets have been created along with wording to go with it, which can be used by practices.

Below is suggested website copy and telephone message you may also wish to use:

#### Website message

##### **Update on the COVID-19 booster vaccination programme**

We know that following the national Government announcement that the COVID-19 booster vaccination programme is due to be opened to a wider group of people that many of you understandably are keen to know when you will be able to have your vaccination.

The NHS is working quickly to respond to the new variant (Omicron) and to put in place the next and most complex phase of the successful COVID-19 vaccination programme.

Following updated guidance from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) the NHS will shortly set out how staff will expand the booster programme – this will include how booster jabs will be given in priority order so that the most vulnerable people are protected first, while also increasing capacity to vaccinate millions more people in a shorter space of time.

The NHS will contact you when you are due to book in for your lifesaving booster vaccination, and when you get the call, it's vital that people come forward as quickly as possible.

Could we please ask people NOT TO call the practice to ask about their vaccine as this takes away our staff from responding to people who need health care. Please could we ask you to continue to remain patient and respectful with our staff as they work hard to support the community.

#### Phone

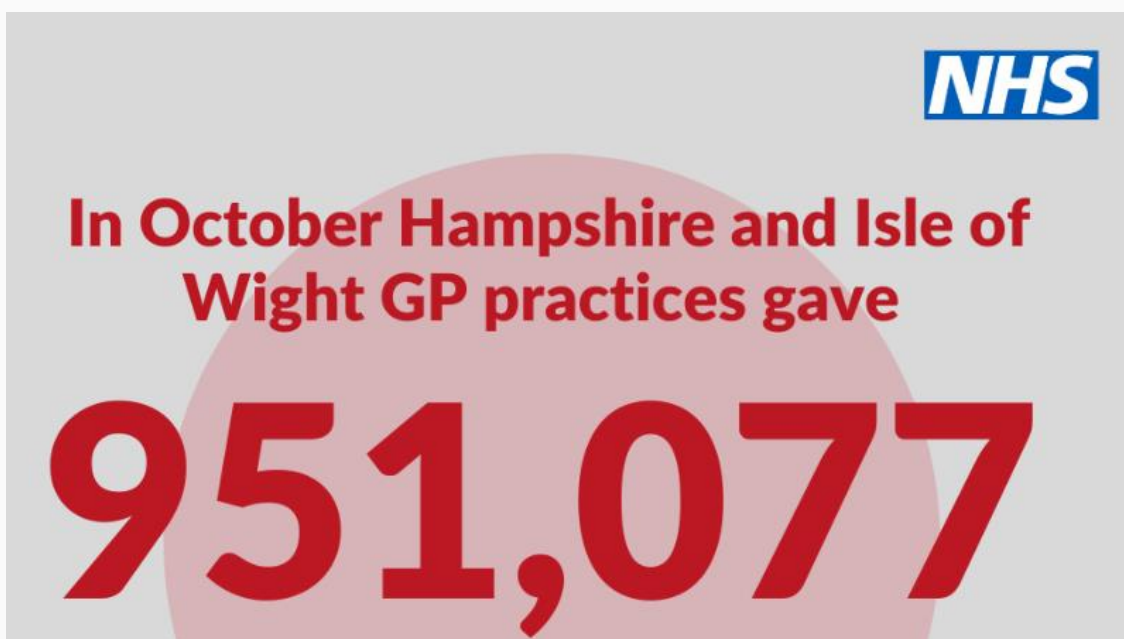
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## Social media assets promoting practice appointments given in October



Each month NHS Digital releases a number of statistics related to [GP practice appointment data](#).

The communications and engagement team have created these interactive social media assets highlighting a range of data for across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The latest figures released relate to October 2021.

These assets have been shared on the Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight CCG social media feeds, [and are available for you to download and use too](#).

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## National respect staff graphics available



**We are here to help you.**  
Thank you for treating  
us with respect.



NHS England has released its national anti-abuse campaign materials via the [Campaign Resource Centre](#).

it includes social media assets, digital screen displays, A3 and A4 posters which can be personalised with images of practice staff.

You can log in to download the material - if you do not have an account then you can register online free.

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





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)

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**Primary Care Connect Portal**

**Wessex LMC**

## NHS England bulletin



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

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