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Primary Care Connect

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

Issue 38 | 23 February 2022

Dear colleagues,

Primary care has been at the forefront of the COVID-19 response for almost two years now.

From hot-site clinics to vaccinations, we have played our part.

Almost inevitably elements of the routine care we deliver had to be reprioritised as reflected in the pausing of Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) for example.

Patient behaviour also changed and many of you I'm sure will know of patients who 'didn't want to bother' us and contacted us very little during the pandemic.



National analysis of QOF data corroborates these impacts, with a 22% reduction in the proportion of people on the hypertension register who have been recorded as treated to target between 2019/20 and 2020/21.

For me this reflects just how important primary care is in tackling cardiovascular disease (CVD) and its risk factors like hypertension.

Data, like that presented above can be a little depressing. I would also argue that it can be invigorating. Understanding where each of our practices and PCNs are can be the springboard to commencing initiatives that address the impact of COVID has had on Long Term Conditions. It can inspire conversations with patients, with colleagues with PCN partners so that we can build upon what we have already achieved.

Since COVID-19 there has been a proliferation of tools that will support us and our patients co-manage their blood pressure from AccurX Floreys and UCLPartners tools to an increase in patients with home blood pressure machines.

To find out more about your data check out the fantastic, [new and easy to use CVDPprevent Tool](#).

Contact details of the new CVD prevention pharmacy technicians for your area are below if you have any questions about some of these resources:

- Portsmouth and Southampton - [Ange Johnston](#)
- South East Hampshire - [Jess Gill](#)
- Isle of Wight and North and Mid Hampshire - [Tracey Day](#)
- South West Hampshire (West New Forest and Avon Valley) - [Charmaine Brandon](#)
- South West Hampshire (Totton and Waterside) - [Ange Johnston](#)
- South West Hampshire (Eastleigh North Test and Valley South and Eastleigh Southern Parishes) - [Jess Gill](#)

Best wishes

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

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**Living with COVID-19 White Paper and what it
means for NHS staff**

3 ways to protect each other:

WASH HANDS

COVER FACE

MAKE SPACE

Earlier this week the Prime Minister outlined the plan for Living with COVID-19, which comes into effect from tomorrow (Thursday February 24).

The [Living with COVID-19 White Paper](#) updates on the following for NHS staff including those in primary care:

- **NHS staff who test positive for COVID-19** - healthcare staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 should not attend work until they have had two negative Lateral Flow Test results taken 24 hours apart. The first test should not be taken before day five after their initial positive test. Information is also included for agency/temporary staff. The UKHSA is updating guidance for staff and patients exposed to COVID-19 due to be published on the [UKHSA guidance pages](#) tomorrow
 - **Testing for patients and staff** – reporting test results remains a requirements for staff. For now, NHS staff should continue to access tests via the universal offer online until advised otherwise and community pharmacies will continue to provide a supply of tests until 31 March. Specific detail on testing protocols for patients and staff to follow from NHS England and Improvement in the coming weeks
 - **IPC guidance** – no immediate changes
 - **COVID-19 treatments** – symptomatic testing of vulnerable patients will remain available – with NHSE/I to flag any changes in the coming weeks
-

Neutralising monoclonal antibodies (nMABS) update



NHS England and Improvement (NHSE/I) have shared updates on the neutralising monoclonal antibodies (nMABS) programme. It is also known as antiviral treatments for the highest risk non-hospitalised patients with COVID-19.

What you need to know

Patients are being identified centrally by NHS Digital and being shared with local COVID-19 Medicine Delivery Units (CMDU). Our local CMDU is a group of administration and pharmacy personnel who are employed by the CCG. They are working closely with all acute hospitals to ensure referrals are timely and appropriate.

Identified patients automatically receive a priority PCR test to keep at home. Any 'new entrants' to cohorts (e.g. new diagnoses of multiple sclerosis) will be made aware of the policy via specialists and be able to request a PCR test.

From earlier this month, lateral flow tests can also be registered on the government website and will be treated in the same way as a positive PCR test.

In the event of a positive PCR or lateral flow test, a local CMDU will contact the majority of patients directly to discuss the treatment and confirm eligibility.

If a patient is eligible the team will check whether they are known to a specific hospital or speciality i.e. renal or haematology. Their details will be passed to the acute providers to undertake a medicines review and determine treatment.

This may be posted to the patient if oral treatment is suitable or they will be contacted by either the St Mary's infusion service based in Portsmouth or Sciensus or Ashfield Homecare for community infusions.

What GP practices may need to do

Eligible patients are being told that if they do not hear from the NHS within 24 hours of a positive PCR test result to phone their GP practice (in hours) or NHS 111 (out of hours) for an urgent referral to a CMDU.

Practices will not need to prescribe treatment – only refer.

The number of patients has varied with anywhere between 13 to 54 a day, however around 70% are not eligible for treatment because their symptoms are improving or sometimes they are out of the time window from the onset of symptoms.

Our acute trusts are working on how they can flag eligible patients earlier to primary care and details of this work will be shared in the coming weeks.

To refer patients into the service please fill in the referral form and email hsiccg.hiow-cmdu@nhs.net

For the updated guidance visit the NHS England nMABS webpage.

NHS pension scheme updates



Below are two updates related to NHS pensions.

Changes to member contributions from 1 October

Following a recent consultation by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), there are changes to the NHS Pension Scheme.

NHS pension scheme contribution rates will be based on pensionable pay, using their earnings from the previous year. Currently contributions are based on whole time equivalent pensionable earnings.

The result of this changes is that most part-time NHS Pension Scheme members will pay a lower contribution from 1 October.

In addition, the number of contribution tiers in the new structure has been reduced from seven to six, with the top rate for the highest earners also reducing from 14.5% to 12.5%. These align with the Agenda for Change pay awards.

[To find out more visit the pensions page on GOV.UK](#)

New proposal to continue the suspension of abatement and the 16-hour rule

There is still time to take part in a DHSC consultation on a proposal to extend the temporary pension rules currently provided by Section 45 of the Coronavirus Act 2020, details below:

- **The 16-hour rule in the 1995 section** – pension payments are temporarily suspended if an employee works more than 16 hours per week in the first month after retirement

- **Abatement for special class status holders in the 1995 section** – pension payments are reduced if an employee returns to work before age 60 and their earnings plus their pension exceed their pre-retirement earnings
- **Abatement in the 2008 section and 2015 scheme for those who have drawn down a portion of their pension** – pension payments are reduced if an employee who has taken part of their pension earns more than 90% of their earnings before the draw down

The purpose of the consultation is to seek feedback on the business case for continuing the temporary pension rules from 24 March 2022 to 31 October 2022, and extending the rules beyond 31 October 2022.

You can take part in the consultation, which ends on 1 March.

Serious Shortage Protocol extended for fluoxetine 10mg tablets



The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) want to make primary care aware that the Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) issued for fluoxetine 10mg tablets (SSP05) has been extended.

It was due to end on 11 February, however has been extended to 13 May.

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

Email: nhsbsa.prescriptionservices@nhsbsa.nhs.uk

Website: nhsbsa.nhs.uk

Telephone: 0300 330 1349

Textphone: 18001 0300 330 1349

Help improve health and wellbeing resources

Help improve health
& wellbeing support
for Primary Care
colleagues

Share your views
in online survey:



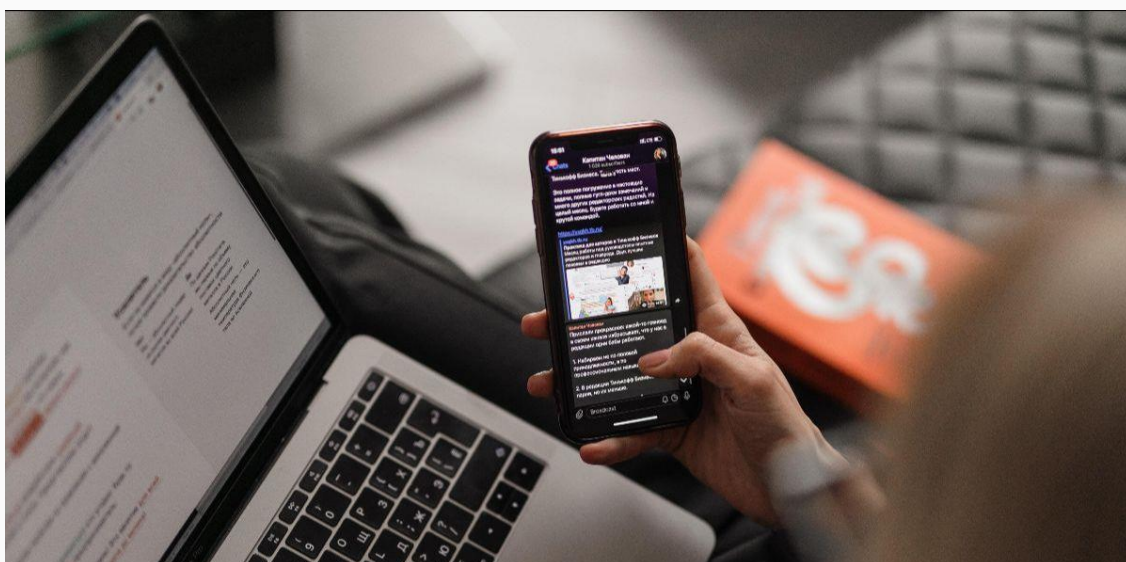
NHS
Hampshire and Isle of Wight

People working in primary care in Hampshire and Isle of Wight are being asked to share their views on health and wellbeing resources available to them.

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight ICS Health and Wellbeing team would like to hear from as many as people as possible through a short, online survey.

Your views will help shape future support for your colleagues in HIOW. The survey closes 11 March.

Contacting the communications team for help



If you need support with responding to media enquiries then the communications team is here for you.

We have updated our contact details and resharing our top tips on how to handle or provide an initial response to any members of the media, which you may find useful to have.

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

Primary Care Connect Portal

Wessex LMC

NHS England bulletin



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