

COVID-19 Primary Care bulletin

19 May 2020

COVID-19: today's round-up for primary care

Dear colleagues,

Today is [World Family Doctor day](#) and we will be using it as another opportunity to celebrate, though our social media channels, the vital role of general practice, working with multi-disciplinary teams.

A reminder that more broadly, we are looking to showcase the excellent work happening across primary care during COVID-19. We have already received many excellent stories and case studies on how you have been adapting, innovating and working in partnership so please do continue to send them to our communications team: england.primarycare-covidcomms@nhs.net

New operational model to help pharmacy and medicines teams implement care home guidance

A [new operational model](#) to help pharmacy and medicines teams implement the NHS England and NHS Improvement [guidance 'Primary Care and Community Health Support for Care Homes'](#) is now available . It describes the medicines and pharmacy contribution to the work and sets out how teams should collaborate across the NHS system and provides practical advice and resources and a model of service to help local systems reduce the risk of harm during the COVID-19 period by ensuring that consistent medicines and pharmacy services meet the needs of care home residents and staff. It includes an implementation plan to activate the model of service at local level. The work is being led and coordinated in each area by a CCG lead.

Primary care bulletin frequency

From next week, we will be reducing the frequency of this bulletin so that we continue to provide you with all the latest information without you needing to read as many bulletins.

Nikki and Ed



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Community pharmacy

Increase of Category M Reimbursement Prices

Category M reimbursement prices are being increased by £15 million per month from 1 June 2020. This is outside of the usual 3 monthly cycle, for Category M reimbursement price updates. Details can be found on the [NHS Business Services Authority website](#).

Dentistry

The most recent guidance letter and standard operating procedure for oral health professionals is [available on our website](#).

Optometry

The most recent guidance letter for optical staff is [available on our website](#).

Additional information

COVID-19 General Case Definition change

Following a [statement by the UK Chief Medical Officers](#), a [CAS alert](#) has been sent out to highlight that the general clinical case definition for COVID-19 has been updated to include loss of or change in smell or taste. It is now: New continuous cough OR fever OR loss of/ change in smell or taste. Everyone, including health and social care workers, should self-isolate if they develop a new continuous cough or fever or loss of/ change in smell or taste. The individual's household should also self-isolate for 14 days as per the current guidelines and the individual should stay at home for 7 days, or longer if they still have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell or taste.

Testing for Coronavirus

Testing is now open to any member of the public with COVID-19 symptoms by visiting nhs.uk/coronavirus or calling 119 to book a test.

Upcoming Bank Holiday - Monday 25 May

Thank you to all GP and pharmacy teams for working over previous bank holidays to continue to provide services to patients and the public during COVID-19. We do not intend GP practices to open, outside the normal bank holiday cover arrangements, for the upcoming Whitsun Bank Holiday (25 May). We will also not be directing all pharmacies in England to open on the 25 May, as was the case at Easter and 8 May 2020. We would like to thank those pharmacies that have volunteered to provide cover on 25 May 2020. Our regional teams will continue to work closely with local providers to ensure they have adequate access to pharmaceutical services on this day for their local populations.

NHS People Health and Wellbeing Support

During #MentalHealthAwarenessWeek, we're encouraging all NHS staff to access the mental health and wellbeing support offers available to them with a new campaign called 'This is for You'. More than 108,000 downloads of the free mental health self-help apps have been made to date and we'll be announcing even more benefits for every single NHS colleague, from 10,000 hours of free 121 counselling with Project 5, new group support via Common Rooms and two new apps, Bright Sky and Stay Alive for help with relationships with ourselves and others. To talk, call 0300 131 7000, Text 'frontline' to 85258 or go to people.nhs.uk/

Health and wellbeing survey

We would like to understand the current wellbeing of the primary care workforce, and invite you to take part in a [survey](#) undertaken by the Institute for Employment Studies to support this. The survey will take no longer than five minutes to complete and will contribute to our ongoing response to support your wellbeing.

Domestic abuse during COVID-19

Director of Health and Justice, Armed Forces and Sexual Assault Referral Centres, Kate Davies, and National Head of Safeguarding, Kenny Gibson, have co-written [a letter](#) to remind NHS staff of their responsibility to identify, safeguard and care for individuals who they think may be victims and survivors of domestic and/or sexual abuse. The letter includes guidance and resources and is in support of the Home Office's domestic abuse campaign, which aims to raise awareness of the support and advice currently available. Please read and circulate the letter with colleagues as appropriate.

Allied health professionals' role in rehabilitation during and after COVID-19

Our four nations have published a [joint statement](#) setting out collective strategic priorities and the approach to Allied Health Professional rehabilitation leadership during and after COVID-19.

Guidance for commissioners and providers of services for people who use drugs or alcohol
COVID-19 [guidance for commissioners and service providers for those dependent on drugs or alcohol](#) has been published.

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 19 May, 5-6pm - [Remote Working across primary care](#). Looking at remote working from different perspectives - GP, sessional GP, Nursing, CCG and more. Presenters include Dr Paul Atkinson, Helen Crowther RN, Dr Damian Williams

Wednesday 20 May, 7-8pm - [Community pharmacy webinar with Keith Ridge and Ed Waller](#)

Thursday 21 May, 5-6pm - [GP Webinar with Nikki and Ed](#) focusing on care homes ([submit your questions](#) in advance)

Tuesday 26 May, 5-6pm - [Update on Direct Booking into General Practice from NHS 111 & CCAS via GP connect](#). Presenters include Dr Phil Koczan, GP and Digital Clinical Champion and Michelle McDermott, GP Connect Lead

Wednesday 27 May, 1-2pm – [Digital Nurse Network webinar 14](#) Presenters: Helen Crowther RN, Ann Gregory RN and CNIO for NHSX and Dr Natasha Phillips R

Nikki and Ed's link of the day

RCGP has published two screencasts on mental health and COVID-19. [Mental Health in times of lockdown](#) looks at various factors that may contribute to mental health problems for patients, including grief, domestic abuse and increased alcohol intake. It also outlines ways that GPs can help patients through the challenges they may be facing during this time. [Post Traumatic Stress Disorder during](#)

[and after lockdown](#) focuses on the potential effects on patients and key workers during and after this period. It looks at recognising signs of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, screening in primary care and how GPs can look after themselves.

Primary Care

COVID-19 Advice

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support for all staff**

**#LookingAfterYouToo:
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