

Greenwich Clinical Matters

January 2021

MEDICINES MANAGEMENT

Advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) on the groups that should be prioritised for vaccination

The 4 UK Chief Medical Officers agree with the JCVI that at this stage of the pandemic prioritising the first doses of vaccine for as many people as possible on the priority list will protect the greatest number of at risk people overall in the shortest possible time and will have the greatest impact on reducing mortality, severe disease and hospitalisations and in protecting the NHS and equivalent health services. Operationally this will mean that second doses of both vaccines will be administered towards the end of the recommended vaccine dosing schedule of 12 weeks. This will maximise the number of people getting vaccine and therefore receiving protection in the next 12 weeks.

Covid vaccination advice for individuals with allergies

Individuals due to be vaccinated may have had previous allergies and may also ask their healthcare professional for advice on their suitability for vaccination.

Action: Specific advice regarding allergies on both the [Pfizer-BioNTech](#) & [AstraZeneca](#) COVID-19 Vaccine can be found on the Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website.

Out of date guidance included in Anaphylaxis kits used for Covid Vaccinations settings

The guidance was updated in December 2020 [RCUK publishes anaphylaxis guidance for vaccination settings | Resuscitation Council UK](#) and the December 2020 guidance should be followed.

Please be advised that vaccination settings may still receive kits with March 2008 guidance in it. Clinicians **MUST** check kits they receive for out-of-date guidance (March 2008) and if they should replace it themselves with the Dec 2020 guidance.

Action: All clinicians to check that if you have any anaphylactic kits for vaccinating housebound patients please ensure they have the Dec 2020 guidance.

Medicines Supply Chain

Current BREXIT stocks are down to 3 weeks rather than 6 weeks.

Action: Practices are advised to prescribe 28-day supply (maximum 56 day supply except for original pack e.g. contraceptive pills) to maintain the medicines supply chain.

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Community Pharmacist Consultation Service

The [NHS Community Pharmacist Consultation Service \(CPCS\)](#) was launched on 29 October 2019 and to date, over 10,500 patients a week have been referred for a confidential consultation with a pharmacist following a call to NHS 111. The national service was expanded on 1 November 2020 to include the GP referral pathway to CPCS for minor illness. Patients contacting their GP for an appointment for minor illness symptoms are offered a same-day consultation with a community pharmacist. The purpose of developing this GP referral pathway is three-fold:

1. To alleviate the pressure on General Practice by referring patients needing advice and treatment for specific low acuity conditions from a GP practice to a Community Pharmacist.
2. For Pharmacy to further integrate within Primary Care and strengthen relationships between General Practice and Pharmacy.
3. For patients to be seen by the right healthcare professional at the right time.

At a time of increased pressure, when practices are beginning to deliver the COVID-19 vaccine, this greater use of pharmacists' expertise can help practices manage their workload, improve access to primary care for patients and free up thousands of GP appointments for patients with more complex needs. Further information is available on [FutureNHS](#) and you can also read about the [pilot of GP referral pathway in the South West](#).

Implementation of the GP referral pathway will be regionally led and aligned with the [Primary Care Improving Access](#) programme, with a nominated NHS England and NHS Improvement implementation lead working with PCNs, GPs and practice teams, LMCs, LPCs and community pharmacists.

Action: To inform the regional implementation plan, we would like to assess the current levels of interest, capacity and readiness for the programme. Please complete the short [survey by clicking here](#) which we will also use to identify those PCNs and GP practices that will be supported to be early adopter sites in London. NHSE will be hosting a series of webinars with further information, to follow.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via England.Lon-GPCPCS@NHS.net

SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

Weekly Cancer Drop In

We have set up a weekly drop-in session for primary care in South East London. The sessions will be led by our local GP Cancer Leads and are open to all primary care colleagues who may have questions/queries about cancer pathways during the second wave.

Action: [Click here to join the meeting](#) every Thursday at 1pm-2pm.

Greenwich and Bexley Bereavement Help Point

The Greenwich & Bexley Bereavement Help Point is here to help people through bereavement. Trained counsellors are available to give immediate emotional support and link in with a local voluntary organisations. A poster can be found to download and display from DXS.

Action: The service can be accessed via telephone: 020 8320 5833 or website: www.gbbereavement.org

Refreshed Co-ordinate my care (CMC) Training

CMC is London's digital care planning platform to record and share urgent and important information about patients. It is accessible to all health and social care colleagues with largest views from 111 and LAS. It is LAS preferred place for all DNAR and anticipatory care plans. CMC is an opportunity to document wishes and preference in advance.

Action: Please see [link](#) below for refreshed Co-ordinate my Care (CMC) training video and for bite sized sections on specific topics e.g. CPR, Emergency treatment plan.

Early Identification of End-of-Life Patients Vision Search

This new search has been developed to support the earlier identification of those patients who may be in their last phase of life and who might benefit from an opportunity to discuss and develop a personalised care plan which could then be recorded on an Electronic Palliative Care Coordination System (Coordinate My Care). It has been developed alongside an EARLY Identification and Personalised Care Planning Toolkit. The London toolkit is available on the [Coordinate My Care website](#).

Action: Use the search to identify patients who may benefit from developing a personalised care plan and record it on CMC.

MEDICINES MANAGEMENT

Prescribing Incentive Scheme Claim Deadlines

Please note the deadlines for claiming practice incentive scheme monies have recently been extended for the following QIPP years:

2018/19 – **31st March 2022**

2019/20 – **31st March 2022**

Action: Contact your prescribing advisor with any queries and send invoices to Trang Dinh by the above date (trang.thuydinh@nhs.net)

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MHRA Update

- [Erythromycin: caution required due to cardiac risks \(QT interval prolongation\); drug interaction with rivaroxaban](#)

Erythromycin has been associated with events secondary to QT interval prolongation such as cardiac arrest and ventricular fibrillation. Erythromycin should not be given to patients with a history of QT interval prolongation or ventricular cardiac arrhythmia, including torsades de pointes, or patients with electrolyte disturbances. A potential drug interaction between rivaroxaban and erythromycin resulting in increased risk of bleeding has also been identified.

NICE Update

- **NEW:** [Vitamin D: COVID-19 rapid guideline: NG187](#)
This guideline covers vitamin D use in the context of COVID-19. It is for adults, young people and children in hospitals and community settings. Vitamin D is important for bone and muscle health. It may also have a role in the body's immune response to respiratory viruses.

UPDATES to previously published NICE guidance:

- [Peripheral arterial disease: diagnosis and management:](#) CG147, August 2012
- [Osteoarthritis: care and management:](#) CG177, February 2014
- [Low back pain and sciatica in over 16s: assessment and management:](#) NG59, November 2016
- [Diabetes in pregnancy: management from preconception to the postnatal period:](#) NG3, February 2015
- [Type 1 diabetes in adults: diagnosis and management:](#) NG17, August 2015
- [Diabetes \(type 1 and type 2\) in children and young people: diagnosis and management:](#) NG18, August 2015
- [Type 2 diabetes in adults: management:](#) NG28, December 2015
- [Eating disorders: recognition and treatment:](#) NG69, May 2017
- [Pancreatitis:](#) NG104, September 2018

Contact Details

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