

## Primary Care update – March 2021

### Suffolk and North East Essex Long Covid Assessment Service (SNEELCAS)

The Suffolk and North East Essex Long Covid Assessment Service (SNEELCAS), which started on 1 December 2020, has enabled access for patients to system pathways for the full range of post-Covid symptoms. The service ensures that there is a referral pathway to support GPs managing patients presenting with Long Covid symptoms

There has been an increasing pattern of referrals into the service which reflects the growing awareness of the service, but also that the need for such assessment is going to continue for some time. The current referral numbers into SNEELCAS are as follows:

CCG	Dec	Jan	Feb	Total
NHS Ipswich and East Suffolk CCG	15	28	36	79
NHS North East Essex CCG	11	12	15	38
NHS West Suffolk CCG	1	11	13	25
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>142</b>

The referral criteria for the service does request that patients are still experiencing symptoms from Covid-19 for 12 weeks or more from the initial positive test, or potential time of infection. **Please do ensure that all patients with Long Covid symptoms who require rehabilitation, either community or acute focussed, are routed through SNEELCAS following a GP consultation.** There have been issues with some patients not being referred through and this has caused issues.

The service currently receives referrals and Yorkshire Screening Tool through the Care Coordination Centre which captures and starts the tracking of patients, before then linking the patient with Alliance based therapists. **GPs are asked to ensure that the referral and Yorkshire Screening Tool are both submitted to SNEELCAS at the same time.** An updated Yorkshire Screening Tool that is able to be shared with the patient directly has been updated on DXS for Suffolk CCGs and Ardens for NEE CCG.

Should patients need support before the point of referral to SNEELCAS, we would encourage GPs to direct patients towards the [Your Covid Recovery](#) website.

We are also aware of a current paper in the [British Medical Journal](#) that GPs may find of interest on 'Managing the long-term effects of covid-19: summary of NICE, SIGN, and RCGP rapid guideline'.