

Newsletter

Issue. 89

11 February 2021

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter for primary care. We issue this newsletter to general practice on a regular basis to give you the latest updates and guidance. This is in place of the Weekly Inbox, publication of which has been suspended.

Previous issues – with attachments and [other useful links and resources](#) can be found [here](#). Clicking this link will not just give you access to archived newsletters but enable to access all the past resources and separate attachments plus a wealth of other resources that may not be in the newsletters. So please give it a go!

Covid Home Visiting Service	Following discussions between the CCG and Suffolk GP Federation in respect of utilisation and the incidence of covid infection falling we have agreed that this service will be stood down with effect from this Friday, 12 th of February.
Sensory Impairment at Vaccination Sites	The CCG encourages our PCN vaccination sites to use Google Live Transcribe for those people with sensory impairment.
Covid-19 – Unpaid Carers	If you receive enquiries from unpaid carers (aged 16-64) asking to be registered for the Covid-19 vaccination, please direct them to Suffolk Family Carers (SFC) via the link here . If they are already registered with SFC, or are recognised as a carer by your practice, they do not need to do anything, as they will be contacted directly by SFC or their nearest PCN vaccination hub.
Covid-19 Research	Please find here the fortnightly update on DHSC's Urgent Public Health COVID-19 research taking place in Suffolk and north east Essex, as well as the latest updates on findings and other related research news.
Current Enhanced Monitoring Device	From early February a wearable enhanced monitoring device is being introduced into three teams in Ipswich and East Suffolk. Please click here for more information.
Midazolam 10mg/2ml Solution for Injection	There are limited stocks of Midazolam 10mg/2ml solution for injection ampoules available until April 2021. This is used in palliative care and is included on the guidance for management of end of life patients with Covid-19 symptoms. Secondary care providers are being asked to use alternative larger volume presentations where possible in order to conserve stock for primary care. <i>Please do not over order for your patients and prescribe a quantity appropriate to the individual circumstances. In some cases this may be less than a whole box.</i> If you have any queries please email carolsampson@nhs.net .
Radiology	Access to plain film imaging of the lumbar spine will be limited at Ipswich and Colchester hospitals from April 1, 2021. This decision has been made in accordance with guidance from the Royal College of Radiology and follows advice from ESNEFT's specialist spinal service consultants. The radiation used for a series of lumbar spine x-rays is the equivalent to between 30 and 50 chest x-rays but has marginal or no clinical benefit to the patient. Therefore, from April 1, ESNEFT will only accept x-ray imaging referrals where there is a clear and specific clinical query around fracturing. They are not currently accepting referrals for such examinations due to Covid-19 restrictions but wanted to make you aware of the new arrangements in good time. ESNEFT would like to reassure you that patients with concerning, non-specific low back pain may still be referred for a specialist opinion using the existing pathways if necessary. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact 01473-703369 (Ipswich) or 01206-742154 (Colchester).

Microbiology	Please click here for information from Dr Luke Bedford, consultant microbiologist and infection control lead for ESNEFT, regarding a reduction in the scope of microbiology testing in response to the pressures caused by the coronavirus pandemic.
Vitamin D Supplements – Care Homes	We are aware that national supplies of vitamin D supplements are now beginning to arrive at care homes. Please see the guidance provided by DHSC here , which includes comprehensive advice for care homes on how to assess their residents for suitability for supplementation and what information they need to record. <i>The guidance clearly states that the vitamin D supplements provided are a food supplement and are not a prescribed medicine.</i> Should you be asked to prescribe these products, please refer the care home staff to this guidance document. However, staff are encouraged to seek the advice of a healthcare professional if there is any uncertainty around the clinical appropriateness of supplementation for a resident. If you have any questions regarding these vitamin D supplements, please email iesccg.medsmanagement@nhs.net (for IESCCG) or wscqg.carehomes@nhs.net (for WSCCG).
Later Life Community Connect	Later Life Community Connect is a single point of access telephone support line for the over 65s with a “real” person at the end of the phone, available between 10am – 2pm, seven days a week. More details can be found here and this flyer may also be useful.
Accurx	The CCGs’ IT Team has received a number of queries about Accurx and the impending deadline when national funding runs out. IT understands the national team may extend this funding arrangement in light of the ongoing pandemic, but this has yet to be confirmed. Practices are kindly requested *not* to enter into their own arrangements with Accurx. The IT Team is working with the regional team at NHSE to see if this can be covered centrally, or whether as CCGs we will need to take action. We will advise practices as soon as possible regarding next steps.
Mental Health	Below is a link to a letter from Marie Gabriel, Chair of NSFT, giving an update on the latest developments at the trust, including mental health support for NHS colleagues and information regarding the outcomes of the organisation’s recent CQC visit. Letter from Marie Gabriel, NSFT
Nutrition and Hydration Screening in Primary Practice - Webinar	The link below provides details of a Webinar on Nutrition and Hydration Screening In Primary Practice that is taking place on Tuesday 23 rd February @ 6pm. The objectives of the session are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss the role of telemedicine and the importance of nutrition screening in primary practice.• Describe screening tools available for malnutrition, muscle loss and hydration in community settings.• Practical session: remote screening for malnutrition, muscle loss and hydration. Nutrition and Hydration Screening in Primary Practice – Webinar Details
The Next Mental Health Education Evening	GP Education Evening: Specialist perinatal mental health services: supporting your patients during the pandemic Thursday 25 February, 7pm, MS Teams This evening education session will offer a refresher of perinatal mental health - what it is, how to recognise it, how to manage it and when/how to refer; plus, an overview of local pathways and the impact of COVID-19 on perinatal mental health. We'll also hear about interventions and support from the Wellbeing Service and Suffolk Libraries perinatal mental health project, <i>Me, Myself and Baby</i> – what it is and how it’s making a difference. Our speakers include Dr Victoria Wilson, Woolpit GP and Perinatal mental health GP spotlight champion with Helen Jackson, Perinatal Clinical Nurse Specialist (NSFT); Birgitte Wendon-Blixrud from the Wellbeing Service and Sara Lungley from Suffolk Libraries. We very much hope you can join us. The session will start at 7pm and finish at about 8.15pm. There will be opportunity to ask questions so please have them ready. See attached flyer for more details and joining link.

Let's Talk About Cancer	Please see below a flyer giving details about the 'Let's Talk About Cancer' virtual event being hosted on Tuesday 2nd March from 10am to 3pm by the East of England Cancer Alliances' (EECA) Patient Advisory Board. Let's Talk About Cancer Event
The Art of Dying Well – Education Afternoon	We hope those of you who joined the palliative care session on Wednesday 10/02/21 found it helpful. We would really appreciate hearing your views through this short feedback form please. In response to previous feedback, we've enabled the option for you to download your responses so you can keep for your CPD and training record/reflective notes to save you doing it twice. All responses are anonymous, and we thank you for your time. The recording and accompanying slides and resources will be available on the CCG website shortly and the book sent out over the next few weeks. The default address will be GP practices but if you are a locum or trainee and would prefer a different address, please let us know ASAP. shelleyhart@nhs.net
ICS Stakeholder Briefings	Please click here to access the edition of the ICS stakeholder briefing issued on Thursday 4 th February and here for the issue from Monday 8 th .

If have any questions or important information to share in the next edition, please contact [Scott Pomroy](#).

Issued by NHS Ipswich and East Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group
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Visit the [CCG Covid-19 webpage](#) where you can find many [useful links and resources](#)