

Newsletter

Issue. 65

03 September 2020

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!

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| <p>Early diagnosis of cancer</p> | <p>Two-week cancer referrals in SNEE are broadly back up to pre-Covid levels in all specialties apart from lung. It has been suggested it would be helpful to recirculate the guidance shared at the recent education event on when to request a CXR in these still altered times.</p> <p>A gentle reminder that a FIT test is also a nationally mandated essential pre-referral investigation in the 2WW colo-rectal pathway. This is to aid risk stratification when access to colonoscopy remains compromised. In common with all 2WW pre-referral investigation, it is not necessary to await the result, merely to ensure the test has been performed. A FIT result of >100 will trigger prioritization.</p> <p>Moreover, if the result is at hand, a negative FIT should NOT preclude referral if otherwise 2WW criteria are met. (NICE NG12)</p> <p>The guidance (NICE DG30) for the use of FIT testing in symptomatic patients who do not meet 2WW criteria remains unchanged.</p> <p>When to request CXR</p> |
| <p>Flu letter</p> | <p>Please see attached copy of a communication that has been sent to all Practice Managers from the Community Nursing team.</p> <p>Flu letter</p> |
| <p>Cancer Screening Session, Weds 26/08/20, 13.00-14.00</p> | <p>Updated Link available:</p> <p>Following the education session please see <i>correct</i> links as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening session recording: https://vimeo.com/452197104/ce09f653c2 • Feedback form: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=eKCmRrCgNEqj3Ce611t1MdD8eNssNRNNudY6oZpE1a5UQTUzSFVR RDFPTEtJSFdfUk1YUjJNVUlaUS4u |
| <p>Suffolk Bereavement Service</p> | <p>As a result of the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on its key personnel, and a change to their personal circumstances, the trustees of the Suffolk Bereavement Service (SBS) have regrettably informed us that it will have to cease operating. Please ensure that practice colleagues are aware and dispose of any SBS publicity materials that you may have.</p> |
| <p>Physician Associate (PA) support programme</p> | <p>Physician Associate (PA) supervision support programme for GPs</p> <p>Health Education England has commissioned a Physician Associate (PA) recruitment and supervision support programme for any practices thinking of employing a PA for the first time. It is available for a limited time, at no cost to your practice. Through the programme experts will support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understanding the role, scope and benefits of employing a PA • making sure your PA is seeing patients confidently, effectively, safely and efficiently • understanding how services to patients can develop • developing the PA role to benefit you in the long term. <p>Find more information here, or email info@our-path.co.uk</p> |
| <p>Infant mortality</p> | <p>Please see <i>attached</i> details for your diary of a week of learning events being held in October by the Eastern Region Child Death Overview Panel.</p> <p>Learning from Children's Deaths</p> |

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| <p>Local Welfare Assistance Scheme in Suffolk (LWAS) guidance</p> | <p>The Local Welfare Assistance Scheme (LWAS) in Suffolk is a local response to those who have found themselves in most severe financial hardship.</p> <p>This document sets out guidance on how gateway partners can assist people who are seeking help as part of the Covid-19 pandemic response.</p> <p>Suffolk Local Welfare Assistance Scheme Guidance</p> |
| <p>Home But Not Alone</p> | <p>Sent on behalf of Davina Howes Chair, Home But Not Alone Task and Finish Group</p> <p>In line with discussions at the end of July, the Home But Not Alone Service (HBNA) will pause from 5pm on Friday 28 August. The national shielding arrangements ended on 31 July and since then HBNA has seen a continued fall in the number of calls received with very cases being referred for resolution. Indeed, the week ending 21 August saw the service manage only 26 calls, of which five were transferred to district councils with most of these being resolved by signposting and advice. We are proud of the fact that very few people have contacted the service in the weeks since the ending of shielding as it illustrates the efforts that the service made throughout the lockdown period to ensure that people had sustainable access to food and medicines.</p> <p>We are aware that the telephone number will still be in circulation. As such, any future calls to this number will be answered by Customer First with links to the district councils should support be needed. We have also asked partners to update their documentation and websites accordingly.</p> <p>The Collaborative Communities Board is exploring options to support those who may become financially vulnerable as a result of COVID and colleagues from the HBNA Task and Finish Group are assisting this work.</p> <p>The HBNA Task and Finish group will prepare a report in due course on the lessons learned from the establishment and operation of this service. This may assist with any future emergency planning situations. Importantly, I hope that the report will enable us to reflect on what was achieved in such a short space of time. The service has operated for 23 weeks and provided support for some of our most vulnerable residents. It was an incredible effort on the part of so many people and a true partnership across the public, voluntary, private and community sector.</p> <p>In the meantime, please be assured that the service can be made operational again in the event of a significant local lockdown or national lockdown. We will continue to monitor the government's shielding guidance which is currently evolving and take action as necessary as part of the Collaborative Communities Board.</p> |
| <p>Suffolk MIND Free Sleep Well course</p> | <p>Free 1.5 hour course on how to get BETTER SLEEP on Zoom with Suffolk Mind. Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good sleep vs. bad sleep habits • The role of dream sleep • Reduce worrying • Wake up refreshed and ready to go • Practical tools and techniques <p>For more information and to sign up for a course go to www.onelifesuffolk.co.uk/sleep-well/</p> <p>Course dates: 9 September - 5:00pm-6:30pm 16 September - 1:30pm - 3:00pm</p> <p>If you have signed up and not heard from us, please sign up again.</p> |
| <p>Back to School, Back to Health</p> | <p>Please see <i>attached</i> details of the OneLife Suffolk 'Back to School, Back to Health' campaign, which is focused on getting children and families across Suffolk ready for the imminent return to school.</p> <p>BACK TO SCHOOL BACK TO HEALTH</p> |

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

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www.ipswichandeastsuffolkccg.nhs.uk 01473 770000

Visit the [CCG Covid-19 webpage](#) where you can find many useful links and resources