

West Essex Primary Care COVID-19 briefing
Issue 40

Dear colleagues,

For week commencing 6 July, there be one briefing issued on Wednesday 8 July.

In this issue you will find the latest guidance and information for primary care.
If you would like any content included please email [Sarah Crane](#) or [Naomi Brooks](#).
For updates on Nursing contact [Emma Harnett](#), nurse tutor.

To make sure the briefings do not end up in your junk folder please add these email addresses to your email contact list: westessexccg.comms@nhs.net and WECCG.primarycare@nhs.net. Constructive feedback gratefully received! **#bekind**.

Best wishes to all,

Christine Moss
Chief Medical Officer

Sarah Crane
Associate Chief Medical Officer

Previous briefings

You can find previous briefings on www.WessexGP-Hub.org and use the password COVID-19.

In this issue:

- West Essex daily system wide SITREP - 02/07/2020
 - Time to Learn (TTL) sessions for 7 July and 8 July 2020
 - GP Clinical Fellow from the Fellowship Programme 2020/21
 - Service and Clinical Update Guidance
 - Non-Clinical Guidance
 - Educational Resources
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West Essex daily system wide SITREP – 02/07/2020

- [Appendix 1: WECCG PCN SITREP 02072020](#)

Time to Learn (TTL) sessions for 7 July and 8 July 2020

Please see appendix 2 for the agendas for each event which have previously been circulated. If you have not received your invite please contact Fikile in our Comms Team via [the Comms inbox](#).

A change to the arrangements

HUC has confirmed they will be providing a telephone answering and triage service for all practices in West Essex from 12.30pm to 3.30pm on Tuesday 7 July.

As the Time to Learn session is not following the usual format the following arrangements have been put in place:

- If any patient returns an urgent contact primary care disposition in NHS 111 they will be visited at home by a HUC GP. An urgent disposition is usually less than two hours.
- If any patient returns a contact primary care disposition in NHS 111 of four or more hours, they will be booked into an available slot in the practice.

Can practices please ensure they have slots available for use by NHS 111 on Tuesday afternoon.

- [Appendix 2: GP Time to learn agenda - 7 July 2020](#)
- [Appendix 2a: Nurse Time to Learn agenda - 7 July 2020](#)

GP Clinical Fellow from the Fellowship Programme 2020/21

Applications for GP Registrars and GPs in their First 5 Years are open now for the Fellowship Programme. Please read on for full details and process for your practice to register to be part of the Programme.

- Want an opportunity to employ an enthusiastic first 5 local GP?
- Want to support retention of GPs locally and build your own GP work force?
- Practices will employ directly the GP Fellow as a salaried GP for four to six sessions per week; based on a model BMA contract.
- The GP Fellow is funded/ paid to have 2 sessions weekly in a specialist area. This could include working with commissioners in a CCG, secondary care services or community such as dermatology, diabetes, frailty and hospice.
- The ICS Training Hub will fund up to £5K towards a related qualification or project such as a Certification in Medical Education, Leadership Programme, Diploma in Dermatology etc.

Appendix 3 has all the details your practice needs and contact details for more information and to apply.

- [Appendix 3: Practice information, GP Clinical Fellow June 2020](#)

Service and clinical update guidance

Herts and W Essex ICS: Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) COVID-19 FAQs for primary care

A very helpful update for primary care, including guidance on patients wearing face coverings, staff and their use of PPE, guidance on having practice meetings, home

blood pressure monitoring and a wealth of other topics. 35 questions and comprehensive answers are included.

- [Appendix 4: Primary care COVID IPC FAQs - updated 30/06/2020](#)

Significant pressure at Princess Alexandra Hospitals NHS Trust

Please note this is a correction to the item published in Monday's bulletin:
The Single Point of Access telephone number: 0300 123 5433.

New bereavement support being delivered by St Clare Hospice

The Bereavement Support Helpline, **01279 967670**, has been established in response to a community requirement for immediate emotional support, information and guidance, as the number of local people experiencing bereavement has sadly increased during the Covid-19 pandemic. For this and all the other work that St Clare Hospice are doing please read the attached helpful information.

- [Appendix 5: New bereavement support being delivered by St Clare Hospice](#)

Phlebotomy update from EPUT

EPUT has provided support to primary care since March 2020 for phlebotomy to support shielded non-housebound patients however as we reset and restore services the community integrated teams will no longer be able to support these specific requests.

Please note that the integrated teams support with phlebotomy for those patients who are housebound and in recent weeks we have undertaken visits to find individuals not at home. When requesting phlebotomy, urgent requests are limited to where there is a change in the individual's condition which is being investigated and where blood results will contribute to the clinical decision regarding immediate treatment and/or intervention. All requests for routine bloods for stable conditions or routine reviews for housebound patients will be completed by the integrated teams within 5 working days. If you have any questions or queries regarding urgent phlebotomy requests please do not hesitate to contact the Single Point of Access on **0300 123 5433**.

Clinical guidance for healthcare professionals on maintaining immunisation programmes during COVID-19

Supported by the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) and the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH). This includes guidance for primary care. The poster in Appendix 6 is also very useful.

- [Appendix 6: Clinical guidance for HCPs](#)
- [Appendix 6a: Vaccine update](#)

NHSEI Letter

- [Guidance to community pharmacies and dispensing doctors announcing commissioning of the pandemic medicines and appliances delivery service for July 2020](#)

COVID-19 rapid evidence summary

- [Vitamin D for COVID-19 - 29/06/2020](#)

CAS alert Drugsrus Ltd (distributor) / Tenolol Ltd (MA holder)

There has been an alert that there has been a typographical error for the active ingredient stated on the label on the vial. The active ingredient should be medroxyprogesterone acetate (a long acting contraceptive) however; it is stated as methylprednisolone acetate (a corticosteroid) in error. The batches are not being recalled, as there are no concerns with the quality, safety and efficacy of the product. Existing stock at Drugsrus Ltd has been quarantined and no new stock will be released with the affected issue. This information is also published on the [MHRA website](#).

Letter to cervical sample takers from the screening and immunisation teams, East of England

Dear cervical sample takers,

During the initial COVID-19 response period, cervical screening invitation letters were paused for a number of weeks, in line with the government advice to stay at home and protect the NHS. Invitation letters started to be sent out again in early June.

There has been a phased approach to sending out letters, with those patients with previous history of abnormal cells or who had undergone treatment being sent invitations initially. All letters that were delayed should be caught up by September. You should now be appointing patients for routine cervical screening.

We understand that many women may be concerned about delays to their screening. You may wish to share the useful advice and reassurance including [FAQs](#) and [videos](#) from the Jo's Trust [website](#).

Please reassure women that the risk from delaying screening by a few months for those on routine recall is very small but that we recommend that they do now attend.

Kind regards,

The screening and immunisation teams, East of England.

Letter from Eastern AHSN

I am writing to you as Chief Executive of the Eastern Academic Health Science Network.

We have been requested by our regional NHS team and our local authorities/ local government to identify any helpful innovations and transformations in health and social care which have come into place as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On their behalf, we are seeking to collect your insights into such innovations that have come to your attention during this time. There is a survey to complete for anyone who is interested.

- [Appendix 7: System letter final](#)

Non-clinical update

Risk assessments for at-risk staff groups

Letter for NHS organisations including Primary Care form NHSEI regarding Risk assessments for at-risk staff groups, requirements and details of support.

- [Appendix 8: Letter to chairs and CEOs: Risk assessment](#)

General Practice Life after Training; a helpful resource produced by west Essex Workforce and Training Hub.

Please do share this resource with all those training or new to the area. It will be supportive for those moving or qualifying in the West Essex CCG area.

- [Appendix 9: Workforce book NQGP document edition July 2020](#)

New to Partnership Payment Scheme

The [New to Partnership Payment Scheme](#) (N2PP) provides an opportunity for eligible health care professionals to become a partner at your GP practice and in return receive up to £20,000 plus a contribution towards on-costs of up to £4,000 (for a full time participant).

The funding is available to support establishment as a partner, as well as up to £3,000 in a training fund to develop non-clinical partnership skills.

Essex Primary Care Careers: an excellent opportunity to widen your candidate reach for all practices in west Essex

EPCC is an organisation funded by all the Essex CCGs to provide completely free recruitment services for practices and PCNs.

Recruitment: Online careers and recruitment hub, digital applicant tracking system, adverts posted on all key national job boards including NHS Jobs, recruitment advice and support, including writing adverts and attracting your new ideal employee. All for FREE!

Talent pool: Over 1800 active, talented candidates across the range of primary care and PCN roles.

Careers fair: Success previously and currently planning a new 'digital careers fair' for GPs, nurses and clinical professional roles for October 2020. Practices / PCN's able to book a booth and networking with candidates

Next generation GP: Free leadership development opportunity for young GPs – annual conference date TBA

Social media: key promotional channels; Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

Contact Harriet Cadman, Recruitment and Marketing Project Lead

[Essex primary care careers](mailto:Essex.primary.care.careers@nhs.net) 07976 948333

essex.primarycarecareers@nhs.net

- [Appendix 10: EPCC Intro letter to practices June 2020](#)

Whipps Cross redevelopment-newsletter

For practices referring to Whipps Cross.

- [Appendix 11: Barts Health Whipps Cross redevelopment newsletter June 2020](#)

Education Resources

NHS COVID-19: Primary Care Bulletin– 30 June 2020

(Issue 55)

- [General practice bulletin](#)

Mid and South Essex CCGs COVID-19 GP e-briefing – 1 July 2020

- [E-briefing – 1 July 2020](#)