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The latest news and updates from NHS England for those working in Primary Care.

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Primary care

Flu vaccine products for cohort aged 65 years and over

Flu vaccines for those 65 years and over are aQIV or QIVr. The QIVc vaccine is only recommended where aQIV and QIVr are not available. The QIVe vaccine is not recommended by JCVI for those 65 years and over and should not be administered to these patients. The vaccines for each cohort are set out in [the annual flu letter 2023/24](#) and summarised in this [poster](#). National [guidance](#) provides advice where individuals have inadvertently been given a flu vaccine that is not the one recommended for their age group.

New NHS England Frameworks published to help systems reduce health inequalities

NHS England has published two new frameworks to support work to reduce health inequalities: The [Digital Inclusion Framework](#) supports work to design and implement inclusive digital approaches and technologies; while the [Inclusion Health Framework](#) provides practical information to support NHS systems and their partners to take practical action on reducing health inequalities for inclusion health groups, such as people experiencing homelessness and Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities. A webinar to support with applying the frameworks in practice will take place on 20 November from 12-13:30, register [here](#).

Access and waiting times for children and young people's mental health services - have your say

The NHS is launching a month-long online conversation from 9 October on children and young people's mental health, focusing on gathering learning and ideas on how we can improve waiting times and make services more accessible. Using the [Solving Together platform](#), we invite partners involved in the CYPMH pathway, professionals, children and young people and their families, to have their say – with a focus on collecting ideas and best practice for ways to make our NHS services better in the future. We then plan to work with teams across the country to prototype and test the most promising ideas.

How a new autism programme is providing education for families and carers

NHS England and partners across England have [launched a new autism peer education programme](#). It aims to build knowledge and understanding of autism and empower families and carers to advocate for autistic people they support to get the right understanding and adjustments in place across the services they use. The regional Autism Central hubs deliver one-to-one and group sessions complemented by high-quality online learning and information on local services. Each session is delivered by family members and carers of autistic people who have been trained to share their knowledge and experience with others, as peer educators. To find out more, visit the [Autism Central website](#).

Peer wellbeing sessions

Three peer wellbeing sessions are starting this month, one for men, an open session for anyone, and sessions for women from ethnically diverse backgrounds. [Sign up for free peer wellbeing sessions for women from ethnically diverse backgrounds, starting 31 October](#). These confidential sessions have been created to bring people with shared experiences together. Alongside a highly trained coach, it is a safe space to discuss and plan how to improve and maintain wellbeing, make valuable connections, and share meaningful discussions.

General practice

Delivery plan for recovering access to primary care: new campaign to promote primary care MDT coming soon

As part of a key commitment in the recovery access plan, NHS England is set to launch a new campaign to highlight the different health professionals in general practice teams who are helping patients get the right care, more easily, first time. The campaign, which will also highlight the important role of general practice reception teams, will run from 19 October 2023 until March 2024. More information and sharable assets will be available in next week's bulletin.

Giving patients online access to new GP health record entries

More than 2,700 GP practices now offer full online prospective record access by default after 750 practices bulk-enabled access last week. Another 1,100 are so far confirmed to enable access by 31 October.

- Dr Muhammad Akhtar, GP Partner at Bay Medical Group, discussed the benefits of giving his patients online prospective record access at a recent General Practice Webinar. [Watch the recording and view the slides.](#)
- TPP practices can enable full prospective access in 3 steps by following our [improved guidance](#)
- EMIS practices may still be able to secure a slot to bulk enable access before 31 October by emailing: england.gprecordaccess@nhs.net

Shingles Vaccination Programme Technical Guidance published

The Shingles Vaccination Programme changed from 1 September 2023 to implement a [change in vaccine and eligibility](#). To support general practice and commissioners to implement the changes, NHS England have published [technical guidance](#). This guidance outlines the technical requirements for the programme and provides information on eligible cohort, clinical codes required to record shingles vaccination events and how payments will be supported through GPES.

Improving Test Results in the NHS APP User Research

The Rocket team (NHS App) are gathering information on the current workflow of GP practice staff and examine the processes involved in requesting, filing a test, and communicating to patients. This will help the team to understand the current process and identify areas for improvement. To gather this information, we will conduct 60-minute remote interviews. GP practice staff involved in this process, including Practice Managers, Receptionists, and Admin Staff, willing to participate in the study or ask a question, can contact: Chioma.oli1@nhs.net

Community pharmacy

Community Pharmacy Workforce Survey 2023

The Community Pharmacy Workforce Survey 2023 will launch later this month and be open for a period of up to 8 weeks. This annual survey is part of the community pharmacy regulations since 2022. This requirement recognises the priority the NHS places on the community pharmacy workforce, and the importance of collecting consistent, accurate data to support effective workforce planning. The survey will be led by NHS England and conducted by North of England Commissioning Support Unit (NECS). Find out more on the [Community Pharmacy England website](#).

Optometry

NHS diabetic eye screening intervals are changing for people at lower risk

Starting in October 2023, the NHS Diabetic Eye Screening Programme (DESP) will invite individuals at lower risk of diabetic retinopathy for screening every two years instead of annually. Eligibility for this change requires two consecutive eye screens with no signs of diabetic retinopathy. This follows the UK National Screening Committee's recommendation for safety and has already been adopted in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. For more details, visit the [NHS](#) and [Government websites](#).

Dentistry

New flexible commissioning guidance

New updated guidance has been published for commissioners. The '[Opportunities for flexible commissioning in primary care dentistry: A framework for commissioners](#)' provides ICBs with an outline of the legal requirements of the national dental contractual framework and highlights the key considerations associated with procuring additional and further services, previously termed 'flexible commissioning'.

Training and development

National care navigation training

Practice and PCN managers can nominate one member of staff to complete [virtual care navigation training at foundation or advanced level](#). This training is fully funded by NHS England until March 2024. Please email carenavigationtraining@england.nhs.uk with any questions. [Care navigation training FAQs are also available](#).

Funding for nursing associates

Trainee nursing associate (TNA) places are available to staff in general practice and primary care networks. Financial support includes £8,000 employer grant per TNA and Apprenticeship levy funding up to £15,000. Send expressions of interest to england.nationalnursingteam@nhs.net.

Upcoming webinars and events

October – December. [Patient participation: online learning programme](#)

October – February. [Understanding and awareness of Ramadan and how it can affect people with a serious mental illness](#)

17 October, 12.30pm – 2pm. [Care navigation: using quality improvement to embed care navigation in general practice](#)

26 October, 5pm – 5pm. [Care navigation training in practice](#)

26 October, 6.30pm - 7.30pm. [AoMRC Report: General Practice and Secondary Care working better together](#)

7 November, 12.30pm – 2pm. [Learning from venous thromboembolism claims in primary care](#)

9 November. [General Practice Improvement Programme – PCN engagement webinar](#)

Catch up

Missed a recent national webinar? You can view slides and recordings below:

- [General Practice webinars](#)
- [Primary Care Network webinars](#)
- [Recovering Access to Primary Care webinars](#)

Download patient-facing materials

- [The general practice team](#) - introducing the different roles
- [NHS staff respect](#) - encouraging kindness to staff
- [General practice access routes](#)
- [Supporting general practice referrals to the NHS Community Pharmacist Consultation Service](#)

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