



14 March 2024

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

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## General Practice

### **HRT PPC single-item prescribing – GP IT automation update**

More than half of GP surgeries now have a digital solution available, which will automatically issue HRT items on separate prescriptions (one for each item) at the point of prescribing. This is an important step in ensuring there isn't additional burden for practices and pharmacy teams. NHS England and DHSC are continuing to work together with suppliers to implement changes across all GP IT systems over the coming months.

In the meantime, where a change hasn't yet been automated, please remember that prescribers are required to issue all HRT items as single-item prescriptions.

### **Decision Support Tools – Easy Read versions now available**

NHS England has published [six Easy Read decision support tools](#) covering inguinal hernia, enlarged prostate, gallstones, varicose veins, managing heavy periods and Type 1 Diabetes.

Decision support tools, also called patient decision aids, support [shared decision making](#) conversations by making treatment, care and support options explicit, providing evidence-based

information about the associated benefits and risks, and helping patients to consider what matters most to them in relation to the possible outcomes, including doing nothing. These Easy Read versions will give people with a learning disability greater accessibility to these tools. This format may be easier for people whose preferred language is not English.

### **Maximising uptake of the whooping cough vaccination in pregnancy**

Whooping cough (pertussis) cases are rising and babies who are too young to start their vaccinations are at greatest risk. Young babies with whooping cough are often very unwell and many are likely to need hospital treatment as it can lead to pneumonia and brain damage.

To help protect people who are pregnant and young babies against serious illness, maternity and primary care services are asked to continue to ensure the offer of vaccination against pertussis is encouraged at every opportunity. Vaccination in pregnant women is 97 per cent effective at preventing death in young infants from whooping cough.

Supporting [communications resources](#) are available.

## **Primary Care**

### **'No Wrong Doors for Young Carers': statutory duties relating to young carers and young adult carers**

Updated guidance is now available to support the implementation of the '[No Wrong Doors for Young Carers](#)' Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to help local authorities, Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and other system partners ensure they are complying with their statutory duties relating to young carers and young adult carers.

The [guidance](#) provides further detail, practice examples and links to relevant legislation, policy and resources, including a template that local systems can adapt to meet their local context.

### **Patient choice materials**

Patient-facing materials have now been produced to promote the benefits of patient choice. Patients have a legal right to choose which hospital they are referred to for their first outpatient appointment when they are being referred for treatment by a healthcare professional.

Materials include posters, graphics, an explainer video and information leaflet that outline how choice works and the potential benefits. Primary care colleagues can use these materials with patients and display in their practices or other care settings. They can be downloaded [here](#).

## **Community Pharmacy**

### **Lateral flow device tests supply eligibility**

From 1 April, [the lateral flow device \(LFD\) tests supply service for patients potentially eligible for](#)

[COVID-19 treatments](#) has been updated to include:

- people aged 85 years and over
- people with end-stage heart failure who have a long-term ventricular assistance device
- people on the organ transplant waiting list
- people aged 70 years and over, or who have a BMI of 35 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or more, diabetes or heart failure, and: – are resident in a care home, or – are already hospitalised.

[Eligible patients](#) can obtain a free box of five LFD tests from community pharmacy. A positive LFD result may help to determine whether the patient is referred to a COVID-19 treatment service.

### **Pilot service improving access to hearing health**

NHS South West London ICB's Hearing Health pathway pilot is providing accessible care through community pharmacies following a GP referral. The pilot demonstrates a fully integrated clinical model developed through collaboration across the system and the benefits and potential of a diverse workforce in primary care. [Read about it in this new NHS England blog.](#)

## **Get involved**

### **National Diabetes Experience Survey 2024**

The National Diabetes Experience Survey, a new survey for people living with type 1 or type 2 diabetes, opens on 18 March. Over 100,000 people in England will be directly contacted by letter and invited to take part in the survey. The results of the survey will provide data at national and local (Integrated Care System) level for your diabetes population.

Please help NHS England to promote the survey using the resources available at [www.diabetessurvey.co.uk/promote-the-survey](http://www.diabetessurvey.co.uk/promote-the-survey). Please do not contact people living with diabetes directly to promote the survey as this may bias the survey methodology.

### **Call out for examples of good practice in patients with COPD**

NHS England is developing a practical approach to supporting patients with COPD at risk of exacerbation in winter and beyond. In many areas in England, work has been undertaken to identify rising risk respiratory patients and optimise their care ahead of winter. This is a call for examples of good practice and to support NHS England to develop the evidence base.

Please complete this [form](#) by 28 March or contact [lizzie.cardis@nhs.net](mailto:lizzie.cardis@nhs.net) to arrange a call.

## **Training and development**

### **Research career development opportunities in primary care**

Applications are open for the [NIHR In-Practice Fellowship \(IPF\)](#), to develop research skills and experience. For 2024, funding is also available to health and care professionals working in primary care, together with GPs and dentists who are already eligible. IPF funding is for two years or part-time, over 30 or 40 months. [Apply by 3 April](#).

### **NHS funded training for Pharmacy First**

Pharmacy First is here – build your pharmacy future with fully funded, flexible training tailored to your skills, experience and individual learning requirements. Learn new skills, support peer development and expand your clinical knowledge. Courses include:

- Clinical Examination Skills and Independent Prescribing for Community Pharmacists
- Advancing your role for Community Pharmacy Technicians
- Educational Supervisor Training for Community Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians.

[Find out more and apply now](#)

### **Join our Polypharmacy Action Learning Set Training – starts 17 April 2024**

The Health Innovation Network Polypharmacy Programme invites you to join our NHS England funded Action Learning Sets to help build GP and prescribing health care professionals' confidence in, and understanding of, the complex issues surrounding stopping inappropriate medicines safely. This online interactive course is held over three half-days (9.30am –12.15pm) over one month. [Register here](#).

## **Upcoming webinars and events**

- March. [Diabetes lunch and learn webinars](#)
- 27 March 10am-12pm, [All stakeholder webinar: Updates on The Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism](#)
- 20 March 2024, 7pm [The Future of Primary Care](#) webinar
- 5 - 27 March 12.30pm-2pm. [Demand and capacity \(four webinar series\)](#)
- 20 March 2024, 12:30pm – 1:30pm. [Measurement for improvement: It's easier than you think](#)
- 20 March, 12.30pm-2pm. [Safe, reliable processes III](#)
- 12 - 13 June. [NHS ConfedExpo 2024](#)

## **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](#)

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