

## NHS Greater Manchester – Stockport Locality

### General Practice Newsletter

Thursday, 2 November, 2023

**To:** All GPs, All PMs, All PNs, relevant NHS GM staff and locality partners

#### Headlines

1. **ACTION: Advice for primary care regarding current supply issues with ADHD medications**
2. **ACTION: Interpreter services for secondary care appointments**
3. **ACTION: Please complete the GP Direct Access survey**
4. **ACTION: Measles awareness poster for practice staff**
5. **UPDATE: tQuest downtime – affecting GP pathology orders**
6. **UPDATE: Online Organon fitter forum**
7. **UPDATE: Online Sexual Health update meeting**
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10. **UPDATE: Share your experiences with the proxy access for children's records**
11. **UPDATE: ONE Stockport Health and Care Board summary**

#### Actions

##### 1. **ACTION: Advice for primary care regarding current supply issues with ADHD medications**

Please download a letter, from the [Practice Hub](#), from NHS GM, regarding the current supply issues with ADHD medications and advice for primary care. A National Patient Safety Alert was issued in September to advise of national shortages of Methylphenidate prolonged-release capsules and tablets, Lisdexamfetamine capsules, and Guanfacine prolonged-release tablets. At present, the supply disruptions are expected to resolve at various dates between October and December 2023.

The NHS GM Primary Care team would like general practice to have the tools to support patients during the current shortage of ADHD medication and the letter includes advice to help manage the immediate situation.

NHS GM will continue to work with providers to develop additional support materials for primary care. This will include education and training, a patient information leaflet and pathway, as well as other tools that will help deal with this current shortage.

Contact: GM Primary Care Team, NHS GM, [England.primarycarecomms@nhs.net](mailto:England.primarycarecomms@nhs.net)

## **2. ACTION: Interpreter services for secondary care appointments**

Practices are requested to clearly indicate if a patient requires an interpreter for their secondary care referral. It is important to indicate whether an interpreter is required, as in some instances the patient has arrived expecting a family member or friend to interpret, which is not appropriate. This has resulted in appointments being cancelled.

Please use the additional requirements section on the eReferral Service to highlight that an interpreter is required and what language is needed.

Contact: Cath Comley, Senior Project Manager for Cancer and End of Life Care (Stockport), NHS Greater Manchester, [Cath.Comley@nhs.net](mailto:Cath.Comley@nhs.net)

## **3. ACTION: Please complete the GP Direct Access survey**

To help shape the future direction of the GP Direct Access programme, the Primary Care Team at NHS GM has developed a short [GP Direct Access Survey for GPs](#).

This survey explores what the current levels of awareness of the programme are, what other tests GPs may find useful, and find out the most effective way of communicating with general practice.

Please share this survey with members of your practice, [GP Direct Access Survey for GPs](#).

Contact: Primary Care Team, NHS GM, [gmhscp.primarycarecomms@nhs.net](mailto:gmhscp.primarycarecomms@nhs.net)

## **4. ACTION: Measles awareness poster for practice staff**

The UK Health Security Agency has published a measles awareness poster for healthcare professionals. You can download it from the [Practice Hub](#). Please share it with your practice colleagues.

#### **5. UPDATE: tQuest downtime – affecting GP pathology orders**

EMIS will be carrying out work to upgrade the tQuest database for Stockport NHS Foundation Trust on Sunday, 19 November. The system is expected to be offline for a period of up to three hours on Sunday morning, but specific times will follow.

GPs will not be able to place electronic orders for pathology tests during this time. Users will receive a maintenance message advising the system is offline, if they try to place a pathology order. Orders will need to be placed using the existing paper process for system downtime during this period.

Contact: Pete Laven, Primary Care IT Manager (Stockport), NHS Greater Manchester, [p.laven@nhs.net](mailto:p.laven@nhs.net)

#### **6. UPDATE: Online Organon fitter forum**

The next online Organon fitter forum is taking place at 12.30pm on Monday, 13 November, via Teams. The sessions are for anyone who fits or removes the contraceptive implant and would like an update, or to discuss cases. They are run by Organon's facility registered nurse team, Nexplanon Training Support Programme (NTSP). The session lasts about an hour with plenty of time for questions.

The session may be useful to newly qualified fitters and experience fitters needing a refresh.

Any interested healthcare professionals should email [joanne.corrigan1@organon.com](mailto:joanne.corrigan1@organon.com), who will share the registration details.

#### **7. UPDATE: Online Sexual Health update meeting**

Please see the attached poster, sent to us by Stockport Council, for details of an online Sexual Health update meeting on Tuesday, 21 November, from 1.30pm - 3.30pm on Teams. You can also submit any questions you may have in advance of the meeting. have for the panel, for discussion during the meeting.

To book your free place email [michelle.jobling@organon.com](mailto:michelle.jobling@organon.com)

#### **8. UPDATE: Valproate update**

**Important message from Heather Ahmed, Network Lead Pharmacist SES, Prescribing Advisor, Viaduct Care CIC,**  
[heather.ahmed@nhs.net](mailto:heather.ahmed@nhs.net)

Valproate-containing medicines will be dispensed in the manufacturer's original full pack, following changes in regulations which came into effect in October, 2023. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has published [new guidance for dispensers](#) to support this change.

The original full packs of valproate contain important safety information to ensure women of child bearing potential are aware of the risks in the form of warnings and pictograms, a patient card and the patient information leaflet. This is important because exposure of an unborn baby to valproate during pregnancy is associated with a high risk of congenital malformations and neurodevelopmental disorders, which may lead to permanent disability. It is now a legal requirement to ensure that patients receive these documents and warnings with every supply of their valproate medication [Safety warnings to be provided to all patients with every valproate-containing medicine they receive under new law - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

There are some occasions when pharmacies will still be exempt from original pack dispensing:

- a risk assessment is in place that refers to the need for the patient to be sold or supplied valproate-containing medicines in different packaging from its manufacturer's original full outer packaging (for example, in a monitored dosage system) and
- assuming that the product is authorised, there are processes in place to make sure that the patient receives the Patient Information Leaflet. That is not the case for unauthorised medicines, unless they are only unauthorised as a result of an assembly process.

Risk assessment documents will be available in the near future.

This is being highlighted as:

- patients may not always receive the exact quantity of valproate containing medication prescribed on a prescription, but instead this will be round up or down to the nearest original pack size. Full details about how community pharmacists do this can be found here: [All valproate containing products reclassified as special containers from October 2023 - Community Pharmacy England \(cpe.org.uk\)](#)
- community pharmacists may contact practices to discuss MDS patients following risk assessments.

Full details are available at [Full pack dispensing of valproate-containing medicines - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

It is also a helpful time to familiarise yourself with the primary care role in ensuring that women on valproate containing medicines are appropriately counselled. See section two, pages 9-10 of the following link [Document \(medicines.org.uk\)](https://www.medicines.org.uk).

An easy read leaflet for valproate patients can be downloaded from the [Practice Hub](#).

#### **9. UPDATE: Primary care staff are invited to take part in NHS research**

The NHS Pathways team at NHS England is doing some research as part of a review of the NHS Pathways Primary Care dispositions, (the triage endpoint that specifies level of care and timeframe). The overall aim of the work is to better align with the realities of current service delivery.

The team is looking for staff within all types of primary care services who are willing to complete a short survey, the aims of which are to understand:

- the challenges Primary Care services face when managing patients sent to them by NHS 111
- the availability of NHS 111 direct-booked appointment slots
- how they use the NHS 111 report that is sent following a NHS 111 triage

They are keen to hear from anyone working in a primary care who has a good understanding of how the service interacts with 111. This could be a clinician, practice manager, administrator, or other staff member.

Complete the [survey here](#). It closes on Monday, 6 November.

#### **10. UPDATE: Share your experiences with the proxy access for children's records**

Researchers working for the NHS are looking to speak to GPs, practice managers and any other professionals within practices, involved in the creation, maintenance, approval, or revocation of proxy access.

There are two ways you can get involved:

- [Complete a survey](#) about proxy access for children and parents.
- [Sign up](#) to be interviewed over Microsoft Teams or in person to discuss your experiences with proxy access generally (not just limited to children and parents)

#### **11. UPDATE: ONE Stockport Health and Care Board summary**

Please find attached a summary of the latest meeting of the ONE Stockport Health and Care Board (also known as Stockport Locality Board), held on Wednesday, 18 October, for your information.

The summary is a quick and easy way to stay on top of what's happening across the One Stockport Health and Care Partnership.

Details about the full minutes and webcast of this and future meetings are contained within the document. You can also follow the progress of the Board on Stockport Council's dedicated webpage [here](#).

#### Useful Links

[Stockport GP Practice Hub](#)

[Healthwatch Information Round Up - weekly](#)

[Primary Care Guidance from NHS England & Improvement](#)