

**NHS Greater Manchester – Stockport Locality
General Practice Newsletter**

Thursday, 26 October, 2023

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

Headlines

1. **ACTION: Please complete Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) Survey**
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Actions

1. **ACTION: Please complete Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) Survey**

A reminder that the Public Health team at Stockport Council is carrying out a review of the GP Long Acting Reversible Contraception PHES. This is a review of the current LARC specifications (IUD/IUS and Sub Dermal Implants), commissioning arrangements and payment structures.

You can access the survey via this link <https://forms.office.com/e/WBveDwPnNn>. Please only complete one survey per practice. The closing date is Friday, 10 November.

Contact: Laura Bennett, Public Health Senior Policy Officer - Behaviour Change, Stockport Council,
laura.bennett@stockport.gov.uk

Updates

2. **UPDATE: Patient Choice - a new system for patients who have waited 40+ weeks for hospital treatment**

The Government has asked the NHS to improve the choice available to patients. A new system is being set up where patients who have waited a long time for planned hospital care or treatment can request to move provider.

In many cases, patients have a legal right to choose where they have their NHS treatment. The choice may include private hospitals if they have been commissioned to provide NHS treatment.

Not all patients on the waiting list will be eligible for this new system. At the end of October, hospitals will start to contact adults (age 18+) who have been waiting 40 weeks or more if they also meet the following criteria:

- they must be deemed clinically appropriate to move by a clinician, and,
- they do not have an admission date set within the next eight weeks, or,
- they do not have an outpatient appointment arranged within the next eight weeks.

Hospitals may contact patients via text message, letters, or emails. Patients will be invited to 'opt in' if they wish by giving their details and submitting a request to move to a different provider. Any patient requests will be looked at by a team within NHS Greater Manchester to identify potential opportunities for treatment elsewhere and the patient will be contacted with an outcome.

It is important to note that 'opting in' will not necessarily guarantee a patient will be seen at a different hospital sooner. This will very much depend on capacity at other hospitals, but all reasonable efforts will be made to source a solution for the patient if they want to move.

It's appreciated the launch of this new system may lead to an increase in contact from patients to different parts of the health and care system. To support services across Greater Manchester, there is a set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), which you can access online here: [Alternative choice | Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership \(gmintegratedcare.org.uk\)](https://gmintegratedcare.org.uk). Please make sure colleagues are aware of this work and where they can access the FAQs.

Regular updates on the patient choice agenda will be sent out via your usual communication channels. If you have any initial questions about the NHS GM Patient Choice programme, contact gmhscp.gmelectivecare@nhs.net.

3. UPDATE: Summary of Greater Manchester Primary Care Blueprint (attachment)

Please find attached a stakeholder briefing regarding the Greater Manchester Primary Care Blueprint, which has now been signed off by both the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership Board and the NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board.

The attached briefing is a summary of the blueprint and the full document is available to [read on the NHS GM website](#).

4. UPDATE: Changes to Community Gynaecology Service

Information from Dr Rebecca Strauss, Contraceptive Lead, Locala Sexual Health, Locala Community Partnerships CIC:

Some changes have been made to the Community Gynaecology service in Stockport to improve access and reduce waiting times. These changes are outlined below.

- Patients currently on the waiting list are being contacted, reviewed, and prioritised. Those no longer requiring the service will be discharged, a letter will be sent to inform you.
- Complex contraception will now be seen in the integrated Sexual Health Clinic, we hope that this will improve access and waiting times. From Wednesday, 1 November, you will no longer be able to refer complex contraception via the e-referral service (ERS). The new referral process is outlined in the document attached 'Referral Criteria Complex Contraception'.
- Benign gynaecology and menopause care should be referred via the e-referral service (ERS) in the usual way. Before referring, please consider whether Advice and Guidance (A&G) could be used for your patient.
- Triage is clinician led and any referrals which are clinically appropriate to manage via Advice and Guidance, will be processed as such with the relevant A&G being sent back to the referring GP.

Please bear in mind that we have seen an increased demand for this service and as such waiting times have increased. To offer as much support as possible to primary care colleagues we have developed the attached information pack. We would welcome any suggestions on further guidance or training we could offer in this area to support you. If you have any suggestions or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on the details listed below.

On the [Practice Hub](#) you can download:

- Referral criteria; updated referral criteria, complex contraception, gynaecology and menopause
- A copy of the referral form for complex contraception and STI care, which can also be found in the professionals area on locala.org.uk/services/sexual-health/professionals

- Testosterone guidance: guidance on what to do before referral and how to continue testosterone once initiated.
- HRT guidance; a helpful guide to managing menopause in primary care.
- Complex contraception guide: a helpful guide to make sure your patients are covered whilst waiting.

Contact: Dr Rebecca Strauss, Contraceptive Lead, Locala Sexual Health, Locala Community Partnerships CIC, telephone 03033309215, Rebecca.strauss@locala.org.uk

4. UPDATE: Skin lesions workshop from GM Cancer Academy (attachment)

Please find attached information about a skin lesion workshop which is being run by the GM Cancer Academy at Skills Lab, Mayo Building, Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust, Salford M6 8HD. The half-day workshop is being repeated on various dates in November and December. The booking link can be found within the attachment.

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

5. UPDATE: Save the date - lipid specialist virtual session

Viaduct Care is arranging a free virtual speaker session with a lipid specialist that is open to all clinicians at member practices.

The session will be held on Wednesday, 15 November, 7pm - 8pm, on Microsoft Teams. Booking details will be sent as soon as they are available, but at present please save the date if you would like to attend.

Topics covered will include current lipid guidance and treatment options, strategies to optimise lipid therapy and maximising QOF achievement, new and future lipid therapies, familial hyperlipidaemia.

If you have any specific questions you feel would be useful to cover in the session, email these to viren.mehta@nhs.net and they'll try to ensure they are covered. Please feel free to cascade this opportunity to any relevant clinicians in your practice and Primary Care Network team.

6. UPDATE: Young people and eating disorders information resources

NHS Greater Manchester has produced information resources for young people and their parents and carers which explain why people may self-harm, how to talk about it and strategies to help young people manage their emotions before they reach a crisis, while highlighting sources of help.

- A leaflet for parents and carers or people worried that someone they know is showing any signs of an eating disorder to signpost them to support: [Children and young people with suspected eating disorders.](#)
- A dedicated webpage for primary care outlining the clinical pathway and providing full details of eating disorder services in Greater Manchester. tinyurl.com/cyp-ceds
- A film featuring Lois who suffered from an eating disorder for several years. She is now fully recovered following treatment by the Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust Community Eating Disorder Service. Lois is currently studying medicine in Edinburgh. youtu.be/S1qx-ARUQJU?feature=shared
- A film featuring Dr Meenaka Williams, CAMHS Consultant Psychiatrist, who talks about how the service is organised, how to make referrals, waiting times, supporting diagnosis using MEED guidance, and when to consider a hospital admission. youtu.be/YDrD3D4PUs0?feature=shared

If you have any questions, contact Laura Blake, Communications and Engagement Lead, Dementia and Mental Health, NHS Greater Manchester, laura.blake10@nhs.net

7. UPDATE: Financial update for GM primary care

From NHS GM Stakeholder team:

We are writing to provide you with an update on the financial situation across the Greater Manchester Integrated Care System. We also want to ask you for your support as we work on our system wide financial recovery programme.

Like many integrated care systems across the country, NHS Greater Manchester is experiencing financial challenges due to increasing pressures from rising demand and costs.

Multiple pressures including the legacy of the pandemic and the elective care backlog have meant that we need measures in place to save money without compromising on performance or quality. Everyone across the system is working really hard to

play their part and deliver their best service to patients during this challenging time and we appreciate the contribution of primary care to this.

Our 2023/24 financial plan has an efficiency target of £606 million, of which NHS Trust Providers is £356m, the ICB £120m and £130m set as a jointly owned system risk. Whilst some good progress has been made against this target, there remains a net risk of approximately £230m still to be delivered and managing winter pressures will be particularly challenging.

A review into our financial and operational performance is being led by Stephen Hay, Turnaround Director, NHS GM, and supported by Price Waterhouse Cooper and our executive team and aims to reduce the costs of our current health and care system.

All parts of the integrated care system will be subject to scrutiny and review meetings as part of a process to understand all aspects of the organisations financial position. These meetings include a check and challenge process, in order to identify efficiency opportunities across the full range of service areas.

Primary care are of course an integral partner in our integrated care system and will be part of the solution towards financial recovery.

Over the coming months we will continue to update you on the financial position, and we will be asking for your support and ideas on areas across the Greater Manchester system where we think efficiencies can be made without compromising on quality or patient care.

Contact: Stakeholder team, NHS Greater Manchester, gmhscp.gm-stakeholders@nhs.net

8. WEBINAR: The Power Of Paediatric Virtual Wards

The Power of Paediatric Virtual Wards webinar will look at the nuanced approach required when caring for children at home, bringing in insights and learnings from leading UK paediatric clinicians and experts working in the field.

It's taking place on Wednesday, 22 November, the time is to be confirmed. [Register here](#).

Useful Links

[Stockport GP Practice Hub](#)

[Healthwatch Information Round Up - weekly](#)
[Primary Care Guidance from NHS England & Improvement](#)