

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

**Thursday, 16 November, 2023**

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

**Headlines**

1. **ACTION: Be aware of measles cases in the north west**
2. **ACTION: Patient leaflet with advice, highlighting risks of infection from a pet rodent**
3. **UPDATE: tQuest downtime affecting GP pathology orders**
4. **UPDATE: Viewing prescriptions on the NHS app**
5. **UPDATE: Guidance regarding ADHD medicines shortages**
6. **UPDATE: Changes to logging into the NHS e-referral service**
7. **UPDATE: November Diabetes newsletter**
8. **WEBINAR: Become a veteran friendly GP practice**
9. **WEBINAR: Home Sweet Home - The Power Of Paediatric Virtual Wards**

**Actions**

**1. ACTION: Be aware of measles cases in the north west**

The UK Health Security Agency in the North West has been notified of a small number of confirmed measles cases in Greater Manchester and Lancashire.

The cases are not epidemiologically linked, they had no international or UK travel exposures and they are not members of a community known to be more susceptible to measles. This implies that there are some unknown cases of measles in the North West, resulting in local community transmission.

Please refer to communications from UKHSA and NHSE, reinforcing the importance of infection prevention and control, notification of suspected cases and unvaccinated healthcare staff. There are also resources available for health care professionals here - [Think Measles](#).

Measles is a clinical diagnosis, however as measles is not widely circulating within the North West, clinicians are advised to take an urgent diagnostic PCR test to support management of cases, minimise impact on close vulnerable contacts, the community and health care services.

How to take a sample for measles PCR:

- A mouth swab (ideally in viral transport medium, usually available from your local laboratory),  
or
- A dry swab can be used to swab the inside of the mouth, use the swab from a charcoal transport medium pack but DO NOT place in the charcoal transport medium. Please use a plain sterile container such a universal container used for urine sample,  
or
- Where mouth swabs or dry swabs are not available, a urine sample; please use a plain sterile urine container without preservative.

Please send these samples urgently to the UKHSA Virology lab at Manchester NHS Foundation Trust, via your local laboratory. Results will generally be available within 48 hours of sample receipt in the lab.

To obtain urgent results please contact the Virology Results line on 0161 276 8854. It's open:

- Monday - Friday, 8.30am - 5pm
- Saturday, 8.30am - 12pm

A communications toolkit, previously shared by UKHSA North West Communications, can be downloaded from the [Practice Hub](#). This includes posters for clinical settings, translated materials, social media assets and videos, blogs and briefings / newsletter article templates.

Contact: Sarah Turner, Health Protection Service Lead / Nurse Consultant, Health Protection Unit, Stockport Council, [sarah.turner@nhs.net](mailto:sarah.turner@nhs.net)

## **2. ACTION: Patient leaflet with advice, highlighting risks of infection from a pet rodent**

The Public Health team at Stockport Council has provided an information leaflet for people who keep rodents, such as hamsters, gerbils, rats, mice and guinea pigs, as pets. All rodents can carry bacteria and viruses that can cause infections in people.

Although uncommon, these infections may have serious consequences for humans. The leaflet describes the risks of infection from a pet rodent and also gives some basic advice on how to reduce these risks. It is attached and you can also download it from the [Practice Hub](#) for either printing for emailing to patients.

Contact: Sarah Turner, Health Protection Service Lead / Nurse Consultant, Health Protection Unit, Stockport Council, [sarah.turner@nhs.net](mailto:sarah.turner@nhs.net)

### Updates

#### 3. UPDATE: tQuest downtime affecting GP pathology orders

EMIS is upgrading the tQuest database for Stockport NHS Foundation Trust this Sunday, 19 November. The system is expected to be offline for a period of up to three hours on Sunday morning.

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)

#### 4. UPDATE: Viewing prescriptions on the NHS app

Patients in Stockport can now view their prescriptions on the NHS app, including repeat prescriptions, and one-off prescriptions. They can use the NHS app to:

- view items prescribed
- see the prescription type (repeat or one-off)
- who the prescribing professional is

This will show patients exactly what their healthcare provider has prescribed for them and what they will then collect, or receive, from pharmacies.

Patients without a nominated pharmacy will also be able to view a prescription barcode in their NHS app. This barcode can be presented to a pharmacist without having to collect a paper prescription from their GP.

A communications toolkit can be downloaded from the [Practice Hub](#). For more information, please contact William Gallear at NHSE. You can also find more information published on the [NHS Digital website](#).

Contact: Mehmoona Usman, Senior Pharmacist Prescribing Advisor Cheadle PCN, Stockport Integrated Pharmacy Services, [mehmoona.usman@nhs.net](mailto:mehmoona.usman@nhs.net)

#### **5. UPDATE: Guidance regarding ADHD medicines shortages**

In response to the national supply shortage of prescribed medication for ADHD, a GM task and finish group led the development of the following supporting guidance:

- National supply shortage of prescribed medication for ADHD - A guide for secondary care
- GM pathway for the management of patients prescribed medicines for ADHD during the national shortage – primary care guidance
- Patient information leaflet - National supply shortage of your prescribed medication for ADHD

This guidance is now available on the Greater Manchester Medicines Management [website](#).

Contact: Aleksandra Houghton, Senior Medicines Optimisation Adviser- Patient Safety and Governance (Manchester), Medicines Optimisation Team, NHS Greater Manchester, [aleksandra.houghton@nhs.net](mailto:aleksandra.houghton@nhs.net)

#### **6. UPDATE: Changes to logging into the NHS e-referral service**

The NHS Digital team is changing access to the NHS e-referral service from the end of November.

Health and care staff who access e-RS in a web browser will need to change the browser address (URL) from <https://nww.ebs.ncrs.nhs.uk> to <https://ers.nhs.uk>.

These will need to be changed manually by Thursday, 30 November.

#### **7. UPDATE: November Diabetes newsletter**

The November Diabetes Newsletter has been published and can be read [here](#).

The newsletter aims to keep you informed on the diabetes work of Strategic Clinical Networks (SCN) and developments that may impact people living with or at risk of developing diabetes in Greater Manchester.

#### **8. Webinar: Become a veteran friendly GP practice**

GP practices are encouraged to become Veteran Friendly Accredited to support veterans who may need support with their mental or physical health.

The scheme from the Royal College of GPs is a free, and quick-to-implement programme, which provides practice teams with a simple process for identifying, understanding, supporting and, if needed, referring veterans to specialist healthcare services. Read more about the [scheme](#).

#### **9. Webinar: Home Sweet Home - The Power Of Paediatric Virtual Wards**

This webinar will dive into 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 takes place on Wednesday, 22 November, 1pm - 2pm. [Register here](#).

#### **Useful Links**

[Stockport GP Practice Hub](#)

[Healthwatch Information Round Up - weekly](#)

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