

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

Thursday, 23 November, 2023

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

Headlines

Urgent message from Stockport NHS Foundation Trust

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7. **Death announcement of Dr Sikander Malik**

Actions

Urgent message from Stockport NHS Foundation Trust:

Following an inspection report of Outpatient B Department at Stepping Hill Hospital, on Wednesday, 22 November, we have been made aware of significant deterioration of the structure of the building. A decision has immediately been taken to close the building at the end of today, Thursday, 23 November.

This has been a difficult decision to take but the safety of our staff, patients and visitors is our primary concern.

Outpatient appointments taking place on Friday, 24 November, have been relocated across our hospital site, and affected patients will be redirected to their new clinic on arrival. We apologise for this disruption but ask that you please attend for your appointment as usual. We will contact patients for appointments taking place from w/c 27 November separately with arrangements for their clinics.

1. ACTION: STARFISH trial – process for referring patients

Advice from Stockport NHS Foundation Trust re patients with sudden hearing loss and the benefits of early assessment:

The STARFISH trial is a randomised controlled trial of STeroid Administration Routes For Idiopathic Sudden sensorineural Hearing loss. It is primarily looking to establish the relative effects of oral, intratympanic or combined oral and intratympanic steroids on hearing recovery in idiopathic sudden sensorineural hearing loss (ISSNHL), when used as first line management.

Stepping Hill Hospital is acting as one of 75 study sites, involved in recruiting, consenting and randomisation patients to one of these three arms.

Patients with sudden hearing loss benefit from early assessment, as per NICE guidelines and urgent onward referral of these individuals from primary care will not only benefit their care, but also help the STARFISH trial, GPs practices are asked to:

1. Refer patients directly to ENT with suspected sudden sensorineural hearing loss within 24 hours to our on-call doctor via Stepping Hill Hospital switchboard, 161 483 1010.
2. Steroid treatment should not be started before the diagnosis of a sudden sensorineural hearing loss has been confirmed with an audiogram performed in your local ENT department.

Useful resources:

- [NICE guidelines for hearing loss](#)
- [Trial guidance on assessment of hearing loss](#)

If you have any queries, contact haris.duvnjak@Stockport.nhs.uk, Shameena Shinaz (shameena.shinaz@stockport.nhs.uk) or the trial's primary care engagement lead at serge.engamba@nhs.net.

2. ACTION: Drug and Alcohol Needs Assessment questionnaire

The Public Health team at Stockport Council is currently undertaking a Drug and Alcohol Needs Assessment. This is to help inform the development of the Stockport treatment system, with a view to ensuring it meets the needs of the Stockport population.

As part of this work, they are consulting with a wide range of stakeholders and would like to know your views as colleagues working in primary care. The survey can be accessed using this link - <https://forms.office.com/e/hMDUGQMnYh>
The survey closes on Friday, 8 December.

Contact fallon.slater@stockport.gov.uk, Public Health, Stockport Council

3. ACTION: Greater Manchester Medicines Management Group(GMMM) consultations

There are currently four GM-wide consultations open for comment. Please encourage relevant colleagues to engage with these consultations, which can be accessed [here](#).

Please confirm that your locality supports the proposed actions below otherwise it will be assumed that your organisation supports the actions.

GMMM Consultations			
Topic	Details	Closing date	Links
GMMM Clinical Reference Group proposed actions from October 2023	<p>On behalf of the GMMM Clinical Reference Group, we now seek comments on the actions proposed at their October 2023 meeting. Actions in this consultation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prednisolone enteric coated 2.5mg and 5mg tablets – remove from DNP list• Micronised progesterone 100mg capsules (Gepretix®) to be added to formulary for adjunctive use in postmenopausal women• Mavacamten added to formulary as RED <p>All links to MHRA drug safety updates and relevant national guidelines will be added to formulary as appropriate.</p>	5pm, Monday 27 November	Consultation document Feedback form
Change to rebate threshold	On behalf of the GM Medicines Value Subgroup. we now seek comments on the proposal to change the threshold at which primary care rebate schemes are considered. This	5pm, Thursday 30 November	Consultation document

	consultation period is open until 5pm on Thursday 30th November.		Feedback form
Opioid resource pack	Following updates by Wigan borough locality team and review by CRG, we now seek comments on the updated opioid resource pack. This consultation period is open until 5pm on Monday 4th December 2023.	5pm, Monday 4 December	Consultation document Feedback form
GMMM Clinical Reference Group proposed actions from November 2023	<p>On behalf of the GMMM Clinical Reference Group, we now seek comments on the actions proposed at their November 2023 meeting. Actions in this consultation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbimazole 10mg & 15mg tablets - Do Not Prescribe (criterion 2) • Acetylcysteine 600mg effervescent tablets to be GREEN and first choice mucolytic for people with COPD. Carbocysteine 375mg capsules to be GREEN, and placed as an alternative choice. • Bimekizumab for psoriatic arthritis and axial spondyloarthritis - RED • Rimegepant for treating migraine - GREEN following specialist advice. • Tofacitinib for ankylosing spondylitis - RED • Daridorexant for long-term insomnia - to add to formulary as a GREEN or GREEN following specialist advice medicine in this indication. • Tirzepatide for type 2 diabetes - GREEN • Mirikizumab for ulcerative colitis – RED • Baricitinib for alopecia areata - Do Not Prescribe (criterion 1) in this indication <p>All links to MHRA drug safety updates and relevant national guidelines will be added to formulary as appropriate.</p>	5pm, Friday 29 December	Consultation document Feedback form

Updates

4. UPDATE: Delay to Stockport's GM Electronic Palliative Care Co-ordination (EPaCC) record (two attachments)

Due to problems with inter-operability with EMIS, (which is outside Stockport's control), it has been necessary to delay the roll out of the GM Electronic Palliative Care Co-ordination (EPaCC) record until the New Year. As this forms part of the locally commissioned service (LCS), a contingency plan has been agreed, to ensure that practices are able to evidence their work and keep that portion of funding.

There are several palliative care templates already in use across practices, with multiple different SNOMED codes. For reporting purposes, it is necessary to try to standardise the codes used and align to those that will pull through to the GMCR EPaCC once available.

An EMIS template with suggested codes has been developed to facilitate this and is attached. However, for those practices that prefer not to use the LCS template, please ensure the codes included in the attached list are used.

In order to evidence their work, practices are asked to code all patients on their palliative care list according to their appropriate Gold standard framework prognostic indicator stage - red, yellow, green or blue. This will allow practices to identify and prioritise those patients who will benefit most from advanced care planning.

Practices should then consider whether the following aspects are appropriate for discussion and coding in each case, using the agreed codes attached. This is likely to be particularly pertinent to those patients identified as RED or YELLOW prognostic indicator stage.

Please note that although the suggested codes will pull through to the GMCR EPaCC once available, any free text will not.

- Creation of an EPaCC record on GMCR (once available) - (the LCS suggested that practice should aim to create an EPaCC for approx. 25% of patients on their palliative care register. It is suggested that patients identified as suitable for an EPaCC are coded as "Consent given for sharing end of life care coordination record" within EMIS and then an EPaCC record created once available.) It is not expected that all patients on the palliative care register will be suitable for an EPaCC.
- Anticipatory care planning eg ceilings of care, admission avoidance, advance directives to refuse treatment
- DNACPR
- Preferred place of death
- Prescribing of anticipatory medication

Practices will demonstrate progress towards the LCS by coding all patients on the palliative care register according to their prognostic indicator stage, identifying a proportion of these patients as appropriate for an EPaCC record and evidencing anticipatory care planning (ACP, DNACPR, anticipatory prescribing, PPD etc) as appropriate.

Once available, GMCR EPaCC will be accessed through the GRAPHNET portal, visible on the left hand side panel in EMIS. Further communication will be sent out once it is available.

For any queries, please contact Karen McEwan, karenmcewan@nhs.net, Clinical Lead for Cancer, Palliative Care and EOL, Clinical Lead for Children's and Maternity, Stockport locality, GM Integrated Care Partnership

5. UPDATE: NHS GM flu vaccination – social media pack

Help get the flu vaccination message to parents/carers and children with the NHS GM social media pack. This paper includes four films starring primary school aged children, urging parents/carers to have their children vaccinated against flu, along with social media messaging. Download the pack from the [Practice Hub](#).

We would appreciate your help in spreading the campaign messages by using the posts on your social media channels and in any newsletters.

If you have any questions about the campaign, or have issues downloading the assets from [Google Drive](#) or [Wetransfer](#), please contact the campaigns team at gmhscp.gm-campaigns@nhs.net.

6. UPDATE: Mastercall recognised for patient safety

Congratulations to Mastercall, Stockport's out of hours provider, which has scooped an award for patient safety.

It received the award for Outstanding Patient Safety Culture at the Urgent Healthcare UK Conference. This is a group of social enterprise, out of hospital urgent care providers, who get together to support each other, share learning and drive up standards in healthcare.

7. Death announcement of Dr Sikander Malik

We are sad to announce that retired Stockport GP, Dr Sikander Malik, has passed away. He worked as a GP in Reddish until retiring in 2014, at the age of 74.

His daughter Jasmin has asked us to share the news with his colleagues and has given a link to [Tribute to Dr Sikander K. U. Malik \(1940 - 2023\)](#). Dr Malik has been buried in India, but Jasmin says that her family intends to hold a memorial service in Stockport next year so that those who knew him can have the opportunity to attend.

Useful Links

[Stockport GP Practice Hub](#)

[Healthwatch Information Round Up - weekly](#)

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