



Date 5<sup>th</sup> July 2019 / Issue 323

## About this bulletin

To minimise the number of emails sent to practices, NHS England and NHS Improvement – South West is using this weekly bulletin as its main method of communicating with practice managers covering the 350 practices in Bristol, Somerset, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. The bulletins contain important information for practice managers, which might include requests for information and deadlines affecting payments, as well as updates on issues relating to GP contracts. We recognise that CCGs with delegated authority may also issue information to practices regarding their areas of specific responsibility, however, the bulletin remains relevant to the practices in those areas in terms of the public health areas for which NHS England and Improvement remain responsible.

Copies of the bulletins and attachments are available on our website:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/south/info-professional/medical/dcis/gp-bulletin/>

If you have any questions or wish to provide feedback, please contact the Primary Care Team: [england.primarycaremedical@nhs.net](mailto:england.primarycaremedical@nhs.net)

## Contents

- Key Deadlines
- Items for all Practices
  - **URGENT: Clinical Safety Issue: CHA2DS2 – VASc Calculator**
  - Infected Blood Inquiry: Information for GP's and patients
  - Digital-First Primary Care Policy: consultation on patient registration, funding and contracting rules
  - Quality and Safety Bulletin
  - Important information re: staff flu immunisations in health and social care settings including GP practice
  - Introduction of more-sensitive testing process in cervical screening
  - National Primary Care Bulletin
  - CQRS - MMR 2019/20 manual service
  - Reminder - Cervical Screening Innovation Fund – closing date 12<sup>th</sup> July 2019
- Items for Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Practices Only
  - None
- Items for Somerset Practices Only
  - None
- Items for Devon Practices Only
  - None

- Items for Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Practices only
  - None

## Key Deadlines

CQRS declarations for payment in the same month	9 <sup>th</sup> of each month	Via CQRS
Cervical Screening Innovation Fund	Closing date for bids – 12 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	Completed proposal form should be sent to - <a href="mailto:england.swscreeningandimms@nhs.net">england.swscreeningandimms@nhs.net</a>
Maternity, paternity, parental or sickness absence	Last working day of each month	Via email to <a href="mailto:england.primarycaremedical@nhs.net">england.primarycaremedical@nhs.net</a>
Register to receive CAS Alerts	by 13 September 2019	Via <a href="https://www.cas.mhra.gov.uk/Register.aspx">https://www.cas.mhra.gov.uk/Register.aspx</a>

## • Items for all Practices

### **URGENT: Clinical Safety Issue: CHA2DS2 – VASc Calculator**

We have been made aware of a notice regarding a clinical safety issue with the CHA2DS2VASc scoring calculator on EMIS and Vision systems (other GP information systems may also have been affected) which may result in patients having these scores calculated incorrectly.

Unfortunately, this means that clinicians need to double check any computer generated CHA2DS2VASc scores manually, before making any treatment decisions. We have shared this notice with all CCGs.

In addition to the below please also see the attached 'Clinical Safety Issue CHA2DS2 – VASc Calculator – Patient Cases' file which provides further information regarding user access to the cases that have been created on EMIS Now that contain the affected patient details.

### **Clinical Safety Issue CHA2DS2-VASc Calculator – Urgent Action required**

#### **Message from EMIS Health**

This communication contains details of patients at your organisation who require urgent review of their CHA2DS2-VASc score.

#### **Background**

An issue has been identified with the thromboembolism codeset used in three GP systems' CHA2DS2-VASc calculators since 2014, which may have led to some patients with Atrial Fibrillation being prescribed anticoagulant when not clinically indicated.

Specifically, the thromboembolism codeset included DVT and / or PE codes in the Stroke/TIA/Thromboembolism category which have now been removed.

Consequently, a patient with Atrial Fibrillation and DVT or PE, and no other risk factors for stroke, would have entered the treatment threshold for anticoagulation as described by NICE guidance[1]. These patients may have been prescribed an anticoagulant which was not clinically necessary, exposing them to a risk of bleeding.

Since the issue was identified we have been working closely with the MHRA and NHS Digital, who have instructed us to carry out searches to identify this at risk patient population. We have created a Case on EMIS Now which details the affected patients at your organisation.

The searches also consider patients who have moved practices and patients who have died. Deceased patients will also require a review to ascertain whether their death may be in any way related to anticoagulant being prescribed.

**The CHA2DS2-VASc calculator in our system has been updated and is now operating effectively.**

### **Action required by GPs**

1. Log into [EMIS Now](#), and [view the Case](#) titled '*Clinical Safety Issue CHA2DS2-VASc Calculator – Urgent Action required*'. This case will contain the EMIS numbers for the affected patients.
2. Urgently review the CHA2DS2-VASc score of your affected patients.
3. Record a **new** CHA2DS2-VASc score in the patient record.
4. If the **new** CHA2DS2-VASc score falls below the anticoagulant treatment threshold as described by NICE guidance, review the need for anticoagulation with your patient.

Note: there may be other clinical conditions, for example, mechanical heart valve, recurrent or acute PE or DVT, moderate to severe mitral stenosis, for which your patient may still require ongoing anticoagulant treatment.

1. Following a review, if your patient **was prescribed** an anticoagulant review the patient record to identify if they have suffered from a bleed during this anticoagulant treatment period (e.g. GI haemorrhage, haemorrhagic stroke, etc.).
2. If your patient has died, review the patient record to ascertain whether their death may be in any way related to anticoagulant being prescribed.
3. Report to EMIS Health by calling 0330 024 1270 if your patient suffered a bleed or if their death may in any way be related to the anticoagulant being prescribed.
4. In addition, report a bleed, or death suspected to be linked to the anticoagulant, as a patient safety incident to NHS Improvement, [https://report.nrls.nhs.uk/GP\\_eForm](https://report.nrls.nhs.uk/GP_eForm), using the term **AF2019** in Question 2.

We will provide weekly reports to inform NHS Digital, NHS England and NHS Improvement how many patients have had a new CHA2DS2-VASc score recorded, how many patients have experienced a bleed on the anticoagulant and if you report that your patient's death may have been related to anticoagulation.

If you need any additional information then NHS Digital are managing this issue on behalf of the NHS in England and can be contacted at [enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk](mailto:enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk) please mention AF2019 Calculator in the title of any communications.

[1] <https://cks.nice.org.uk/atrial-fibrillation#!scenario>, see heading, “When should I prescribe an anticoagulant for someone in atrial fibrillation”.

## **Infected Blood Inquiry: Information for GP’s and patients**

Please follow the link below for information on the Infected Blood Inquiry (IBI)

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/infected-blood-inquiry-information-for-gps-and-patients?utm\\_source=7a290c84-7936-4ec8-86d3-d19db3ee9025&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=immediate](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/infected-blood-inquiry-information-for-gps-and-patients?utm_source=7a290c84-7936-4ec8-86d3-d19db3ee9025&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)

If you have any queries, please contact [england.swscreeningandimms@nhs.net](mailto:england.swscreeningandimms@nhs.net)

## **Digital-First Primary Care Policy: consultation on patient registration, funding and contracting rules**

This document describes the proposals to reform patient registration, funding and contracting rules to ensure patients have both choice as well as access to integrated care; and to harness the potential of digital providers to help with our workforce shortages in under-doctored and deprived communities.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/digital-first-primary-care-policy-consultation-on-patient-registration-funding-and-contracting-rules/>

## **Quality and Safety Bulletin**

Please see the attached Quality and Safety Bulletin. This is the learning from the Serious Incidences and Significant Event Audits in Primary Care that have been discussed at the Primary Care Quality & Sustainability Hub for DCIOS, Somerset & Dorset. It was agreed that there is significant learning that should be shared.

## **Important information re: staff flu immunisations in health and social care settings including GP practice**

For 2019/20, health and social care organisations administering seasonal flu immunisation to staff (e.g. peer to peer vaccination in GP practices and nursing homes etc) will no longer be covered by the Patient Group Direction (PGD). Settings and organisations offering employees seasonal flu vaccinations will need to use a written instruction for seasonal influenza immunisation that has been signed and authorised by an appropriate doctor.

Once adopted and medically authorised the written instruction allows named registered nurses to administer the seasonal influenza vaccine to the organisation’s staff, including as a peer to peer vaccinator. Immunisers must be trained and competent to work in accordance with the written instruction.

There is full information on page 6 of the June edition of Vaccine Update available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vaccine-update-issue-295-june-2019>

with more information including a link to a written instruction template document and a FAQ document available here: <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/written-instruction-for-the-administration-of-seasonal-flu-vaccination/> A summary of the information from Vaccine Update is included below.

Please ensure that you use a written instruction for seasonal flu immunisation for staff members within your practice for 2019/20.

PHE South West Screening & Immunisation Team –  
[england.swscreeningandimms@nhs.net](mailto:england.swscreeningandimms@nhs.net)

#### Written Instruction for the administration of seasonal flu vaccination to staff

During the 2018/19 flu season the NHS Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) became aware of issues being encountered by health and social care organisations in offering employees the seasonal flu vaccine, including peer to peer vaccination, within the Patient Group Direction (PGD) legislation for occupational health purposes.

SPS has been working with all the relevant stakeholders to identify a way that organisations can offer employee seasonal flu vaccinations within the legislation.

The outcome of this work has been to produce a written instruction for seasonal influenza vaccination. The written instruction can be adopted by organisations following the signed authorisation by an appropriate doctor.

This medical signatory must be the doctor assuming responsibility for the delivery of the influenza vaccination programme to staff within an organisation (for example an Occupational Health Physician employed by the organisation, the organisation's Medical Director or a GP partner).

Once adopted and medically authorised the written instruction allows named registered nurses to administer the seasonal influenza vaccination to the organisation's staff, including as a peer to peer vaccinator. Immunisers must be trained and competent to work in accordance with the written instruction.

The written instruction template along with a factsheet to support the use of the written instruction by organisations is available at <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/written-instruction-for-the-administration-of-seasonal-flu-vaccination/> . Further advice on the use of PGDs in Occupational Health Services is available at <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/pgds-and-occupational-health-schemes/> . Any queries please contact Jo Jenkins, Specialist Pharmacist for Patient Group Directions at SPS [jo.jenkins@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:jo.jenkins@gstt.nhs.uk).

#### **Introduction of more-sensitive testing process in cervical screening**

Please see attached information for GP practices regarding the changes to the cervical screening programme and the introduction of primary HPV screening.

#### **National Primary Care Bulletin**

Please see the attached Primary Care Bulletin – LGBT+ Special Edition. Please note that practice are able to sign-up to receive the national Primary Care Bulletin directly from the NHS England website at the following link: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/email-bulletins/general-practice-bulletin/>

#### **CQRS - MMR 2019/20 manual service**

In response to queries nationally regarding the MMR 2019/20 CQRS manual service, an expanded clinical code cluster list containing [all relevant codes for the MMR service](#) can now be accessed at [this link](#).

Please note: the technical guidance for the MMR 2019/20 service has not yet been published by NHS England. The above temporary link to the expanded cluster list will be removed once the updated technical guidance has been published on the [NHS England website](#).

## **Reminder - Cervical Screening Innovation Fund – closing date 12<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

The South West Cancer Alliances are working with Public Health England and NHS England and NHS Improvement to improve the current uptake of cervical screening which has been steadily declining.

Practices are being invited to apply to the Cervical Screening Innovation Fund for financial support to develop local projects to increase the uptake of cervical screening in women aged between 25 and 64 years in their area. The attached letter and proposal form provides further details for your information. If you wish to apply, please send your bid to [england.swscreeningandimms@nhs.net](mailto:england.swscreeningandimms@nhs.net) – the closing date for bids is 12<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

- **Items for Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Practices only**

None

- **Items for Somerset Practices only**

None

- **Items for Devon Practices only**

None

- **Items for Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Practices only**

None