

Baddow Village Surgery Patient Participation Group Update at 18th July 2021

NHS Primary Care Bulletin

16th July

Following the Government's announcement on Monday (12th July) that the legal requirement to wear a face covering in shops, public transport and other enclosed public spaces will end on 19 July, we wanted to clarify the position for primary care.

Public Health England's [infection prevention control \(IPC\) guidelines](#) remains in place [for all staff and patients](#) in hospitals as well as GP practices, dental practices, optometrists and pharmacies to ensure that everyone is protected. Staff, patients and visitors will also be expected to continue to follow social distancing rules when visiting any care setting as well as using face coverings, mask and other personal protection equipment.

Extension of temporary changes to GP Contract under the pandemic regulations

The following temporary changes to the GP Contract in England will continue under the pandemic regulations **until 30 September 2021:**

A suspension of the requirement that practices report to commissioners about the Friends and Family Test returns.

A temporary suspension of the requirement for individual patient consent in certain circumstances, in order to encourage increased use of electronic repeat dispensing (eRD).

A continuation of the temporary increase in the number of appointment slots that practices make available for direct booking by 111 up to 1 slot per 500 patients per day. These slots continue not to be appointments in the traditional sense, but practices should clinically review patient referred by 111 and contact the patient to arrange appropriate follow-up. Practices should make slots available in line with demand, and for many practices this will be fewer than 1 slot per 500 patients per day.

NHS Digital website

16 July

Appointments in General practice May 2021 - Key Facts

'Number of Appointments - 32.3 million appointments are estimated to have happened in April 2021, of which 8.7 million were Covid Vaccinations delivered by practice /PCN.

Same Day Appointments - 44.8% of appointments in May took place on the same day that they were booked.

Appointment Status - 92.6% of all appointments were attended in April.

HAPIA Bulletin

12 July

More flexibility around appointments and the removal of tick-box targets may explain a rise in patient satisfaction during the pandemic - and could pave the way for general practice to move on from the **rigid 10-minute consultation model**, the BMA's top GP has said.

A [PHE study](#) shows that UK COVID-19 vaccines are as **effective** at preventing symptomatic disease in the **majority of people with underlying health conditions** – those previously advised to shield – as the rest of the population.

13th July

England's medical workforce is 25 years behind comparable EU nations according to a damning BMA report that warns doctor numbers are below a worst-case prediction from government advisors in 2014. *(KE note – BMA British Medical Association is the representative body for doctors in surgeries and hospitals, its trade union equivalent.)*

14th July

Multiple trusts are planning to tell the public they must comply with **current covid infection control measures, such as mask wearing**, beyond 19 July when they visit NHS premises. Numerous trust chiefs told HSJ they will insist public visitors continue to wear masks within their hospitals. This is despite Boris Johnson confirming yesterday mask-wearing will be advisory in crowded and enclosed spaces, rather than a legal requirement, from Monday. **Public Health England guidance requiring mask wearing in clinical areas is still in force**, and the trusts strategies are largely aimed at reminding the public that is still the case despite the change in law.

A systematic review has been undertaken by SQW, an independent research and consultancy organisation, in **improving communication between clinicians and patients** in the NHS.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/improving-communication-between-health-care-professionals-and-patients-in-the-nhs-in-england/>

15th July

NHS England has **ruled out administration of COVID-19 booster jabs at individual practice level** in an enhanced service document for phase 3 of the vaccination campaign that BMA leaders say 'ignores' the voice of GPs.

16th July

Close to 100% of fully vaccinated people had **COVID-19 antibodies** in May, according to the latest [preprint results](#) from the Imperial-led REACT-2 study. Protection fell to 98% in those aged 80 and over with the Pfizer/BioNTech jab, and to 84% for Oxford/AstraZeneca.

Chelmsford Centre Supporting Voluntary Action

12 July

Introduction to Self-Management for Arthritis Join Arthritis Action for a free Online Self-Management Event for people in and around Essex who are living with arthritis. It will be held at 14:00 on the 28th of July via Zoom. It will last for one hour and is a great introduction to a self-management approach to dealing with arthritis, including diet, pain management, and exercise.

One of the main things that Arthritis Action do (especially over the last year and a half) is run online groups for those living with arthritis where they can share tips, tricks, advice and experiences, and in an effort to make sure that people in Essex have all the help and support they need.

This special event is for adults living with arthritis in Essex. In it they will explore what self-management for arthritis is, and discuss elements including keeping active, mental health, and diet. For more information and to book, click the button below.

**Find out
More**