

BULLETIN

February 2018

Please share this information with GPs and other colleagues in your practice.

Shareholder consultation – PCS Articles of Association

We have recently contacted all PCS shareholding practices regarding a review of our Articles of Association. These are the rules agreed in law by you as shareholders as to how the Board governs PCS on your behalf. As well as the details sent to your practice directly, your locality representative on the PCS board will discuss this with you. Thank you to those who have provided feedback so far - if you haven't yet, but would like to, please contact pcs.enquiries@nhs.net or your locality representative on the PCS Board.

Neighbourhood Learning Network

The next event takes place on Thursday 15th March 1.30-3.30pm in the 1889 lounge at Sheffield United FC and will focus on the neighbourhood development tool, developing governance and the system level support that neighbourhoods need. Please [register here](#) if you would like to attend.

Clinical Pharmacy Programme

It's not too late to benefit from additional funding by joining the PCS programme!

All 12 Clinical Pharmacist posts have now been recruited to successfully. The Pharmacists will be working across 40 GP practices throughout Sheffield, as part of the NHS England Clinical Pharmacists in General Practice Programme. The first 10 pharmacists are already in post, and many have already begun to meet with their practice colleagues. The remaining two will join us by mid-May.

The aim of this programme is to develop the role of Clinical Pharmacists within GP practices, freeing up busy GP time, but also to become medicines experts within practices and a firm member of the practice multi-disciplinary team. NHS England is providing significant funding and training to the team over three years in order to ensure success at this role, including training to become Independent Prescribers (if this has not already been achieved). If you wish to consider joining the programme, please contact Neil Heslop, Head of Service on neilheslop@nhs.net or 0114 2264500.

You can find patient leaflets on the role of clinical pharmacists in a range of languages [on the PCS website](#).

Satellite Hub updates

Minor illness clinics

We are testing additional capacity in the 4 hubs until the end of March with minor illness clinics held by advanced nurse practitioners (ANPs). These can be booked 24 hours in advance and can be found on remote booking on both SystmOne and EMIS under 'Minor Illness / ANP'. Please note: ANPs can see all minor illness EXCEPT the following:

- Under one year olds
- Pregnant Women
- Mental Health problems

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The ANP rotas will be sent out to Practice Managers for information.

Diabetic Reviews

We are pleased to announce that practices can now book patients into the hubs for their annual diabetic review with the practice nurses. The aim of this is to extend access to patients with established diabetes who need a routine review, enabling them to be seen by a trained practice nurse out of normal working hours. The nurses will use the Sheffield Diabetic template for SystmOne patients and the diabetic template within the patient notes for EMIS patients. If the nurses want to suggest any changes to the patient's medication this will be communicated through a 'Hub to GP form' being filled out and faxed to the practice.

Remember that you can book your patients into the Hubs for their diabetic bloods and foot check with one of our Healthcare Assistants a week before they are booked in for their diabetic review.

Recurrent issue with Hub GP Appointments

We are frequently receiving shift reports from GPs working hub sessions to say that they are still seeing patients who have either not been clinically triaged or no triage details have been documented in the patient notes or on the appointment when booked. Please remember that if a receptionist is booking a GP appointment at one of the Hubs this **must** have had clinical oversight and documented triage/symptoms along with which clinician has approved the booking.

NHS Health Check programme

Due to delays with Health Check searches and the updated workbooks being sent to practices, the start of the Health Check programme has been delayed. A decision has therefore been made to lift any caps on the numbers of Health Checks for practices to complete, and so practices are asked to complete an unlimited number until further notice.

Reminder: the contracting period for Year 1 of this contract is 1/9/2017 until 31/8/2018. Practices will receive a further allocation of Health Checks to complete in August for Year 2 of the contract.

If any practices require assistance with completing Health Checks, please contact:

pcs.healthchecks@nhs.net

New NICE guidance for sore throats

There is a new update from NICE (2018) on managing sore throats, sent to us from the Laboratory Medicine department at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals. The FeverPain score is a validated method for assessing which patients are likely to benefit from antibiotics.

Each of the FeverPAIN criteria score 1 point (maximum score of 5): **F**ever; **P**urulence; **A**ttend rapidly (3 days or less); **S**everely Inflamed tonsils; **N**o cough or coryza.

We would suggest sending a bacterial throat swab to the laboratory in the following circumstances:

- recurrence of symptoms
- where person wishes to take antibiotic only in the context of a positive sample
- severely unwell
- penicillin allergy (susceptibility to non-beta-lactams is not predictable)
- healthcare workers / care home residents / outbreak setting / scarlet fever.

NB: Positive group A streptococcal results from any site will no longer be phoned to practices as the patients will be already managed appropriately and the results will continue to be reported electronically.

A useful infographic is available on our [CASES ENT page](#) or the [NICE website](#).

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