

BULLETIN

March 2018

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

PCS Shareholder event: Taking action on neighbourhood development and governance

The next event for PCS shareholding practices will take place on **Thursday 19th April 6.30pm-9pm** in the Ambassadors Suite at Sheffield United Football Club. This event follows on from the Annual General Meeting where we explored drivers for delivery at scale and potential models for collaborative working. We now all have a much clearer picture of Sheffield's approach to scale and the importance of neighbourhoods as delivery units. This is an opportunity particularly aimed at your shareholding GP and your GP partners, along with Practice Managers, to influence how PCS evolves to support neighbourhoods. **Please [register here](#).**

New Post: Head of Service (Elective and Urgent Care)

PCS has advertised a new post for a Head of Service. The job will support the longer term development of providing primary care at scale. The job is already [posted on NHS Jobs](#) and if you would like to find out more please contact stevenhaigh@nhs.net

NHS Health Checks

As advised in the February bulletin, until further notice the cap has been lifted from practices' individual allocations of NHS Health Checks. Submissions of both low and high risk (targeted) will be monitored on a monthly basis by PCS and practices will be contacted directly if there are any changes to this. Any queries relating to the Health Check programme should be sent to pcs.healthchecks@nhs.net

Minor illness sessions in the Hubs

Please be aware that the Advanced Nurse Practitioner (minor illness) sessions will only be available to book into until Thursday 29th March, as the testing period during the winter pressure period has now come to an end. Practices will be informed if these sessions are to become available again.

Extension to the EPCC

Thank you to all practices who expressed an interest and applied to be considered for the additional hub sites. Following a thorough selection process the sites have now been chosen. These will be at: **Burncross Surgery**, 1 Bevan Way, Chapeltown, S35 1RN and **The Flowers Health Centre**, 87 Wincobank Avenue, Wincobank, S5 6AZ.

To enable us to finalise rotas for the new sessions, if your practice has GPs able to cover sessions Monday – Friday 6pm-10pm at either Burncross or The Flowers as part of an extended EPCC please contact us **no later than Wednesday 28th March 12 noon**. Alternatively if any GPs would like to express an interest in working a hub shift at either Burncross or The Flowers Monday -Friday evening please contact pcs.satelliteunits@nhs.net or helen.proud@nhs.net as soon as possible.

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Nurse Audit and Appraisal

We have now had our first couple of sign-ups to our Nurse Audit and Appraisal Service. Clinical audit is a fundamental way to ensure healthcare is being provided in line with guidelines and standards and is a quality improvement tool used to review and improve treatments and services for our patients.

These services can support;

- CQC compliance (safety and clinical audits)
- Efficiency in terms of number of appointments etc
- Clinical quality in terms of QOF, NICE, etc
- Workforce development and retention (Appraisal, PDP)

If you want to know more about any of these please contact georgia.milne@nhs.net

QOF

We were able to offer a limited number of practices the opportunity to receive training and some targeted support from Oberoi consulting to increase their QOF points funded by NAPP. Oberoi have delivered the training and have begun to visit the practices that signed up. This was very short notice but we had a fantastic response. Apologies to those that missed out on this occasion, we will let you know as we have other opportunities for you to take advantage of.

Financial year end

As we're coming up to the 2017/18 financial year end for PCS, will practices that provide services for PCS please let us have final invoices for the year ended 31st March 2018 as soon as possible. This relates mainly to care homes, 24 hour ECGs and vasectomies but also includes any other ad-hoc payments.

Please date invoices 31 March 2018 if it relates to the current financial year. Returns for health checks should be submitted as early in April as possible. Thank you for your cooperation. The quarterly payment for the EPCC scheme will be made at the end of March for the current quarter and any adjustments for missing GPs in late March will be made to the June payment.

Get free equipment and training to help identify undiagnosed Atrial Fibrillation (AF)

PCS are working with the Yorkshire and Humber Academic Health Science Network (Y&H AHSN) who are delivering a stroke prevention programme on behalf of NHS England whereby practices can receive free equipment to identify potential AF patients in their populations.

All practices who participate will receive:

- Either AliveCor Kardia or WatchBP devices for detecting possible AF (2 or 3 devices available per practice). These devices provide a single lead ECG trace for immediate use during consultation; the AliveCor device is credit card sized and takes 30 seconds to run by placing your fingers on two pads.
- Optional completion and support with the use of GRASP-AF audit tools for case finding and improving care for patients with AF.
- Optional access to Quality Improvement training and resources to help support AF identification within your practice. The training is offered in three levels: Bronze (QI basics – 2 hour e-learning), Silver (comprehensive - one day session) and Gold (train the trainer). This training is open to both clinical and non-clinical members of your team.

Should your practice wish to look at an alternate to GRASP AF, PCS has also agreed access to an alternative audit tool through Interface Clinical Systems.

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Applications should be made directly to AHSN but if the level of interest from practices is sufficient, PCS will arrange for AHSN to provide the introduction in a group setting.

In order to qualify for the support and equipment, the ask from practices is minimal. You are required to return:

- Weekly figures from your AF QOF Fields along with capitation (for 26 weeks).
- A one page PDSA cycle detailing the quality improvement undertaken by the practice to reduce AF stroke risk. Several simple [ideas for intervention are available here](#).

To participate in the programme, please complete the [Expression of Interest Form available here](#) and return it to ruth.pitman-jones@yhahsn.com. If you wish to access the Interface Clinical Services AF audit then you should email Karly Hoggard at KHoggard@interface-cs.co.uk

PCS have a limited number of copies of a step-by-step guide to diagnosing AF and managing stroke risk available to practices. Please contact pcs.enquiries@nhs.net if your practice would like one.

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