

Information to GP Practices regarding COVID-19 and patients with long-term conditions

Update 9: 22 June 2020

[Authors](#)

This pack is for GPs across Derby and Derbyshire in regards to managing their patients with long-term conditions and COVID-19. We are aware that the rapid developments in the recent days have led to a significant change in routine practice in addition to managing and treating patients face-to-face.

This pack covers guidance around updates to:

- [General](#)
- [Diabetes](#)
- [Cardiovascular Disease](#)

General

We all had to put most of our care for people with long term conditions (LTC) on hold during the pandemic, but now we are all needing to decide how we can safely prioritise seeing those patients with the greatest need first. We hope that this guide will support practices in taking decisions on rolling out LTC care. This is only a guide and every practice will need to interpret it for their context, and clinical responsibility for patients obviously rests with the practice. Best practice according to national guidance may also change as the circumstances of the pandemic changes.

There is no need for practices to see all the “red” high priority patients immediately, and it is suggested that practices may choose to see the high priority “red” and ideally the medium priority “amber” patients they would have seen each month using their usual recall system.

You will find attached the guide itself and the document on how to find the searches which have been uploaded to all Systm One practices in Derbyshire. EMIS searches will follow within the next week.

We are hugely grateful to Joanna Wright and her colleagues in medicines management for undertaking some of the most complex searches ever done in Derbyshire.

If you have any clinical queries please get in touch with the relevant clinical lead below. If you need help with the searches, please ask your medicines management pharmacist.

Kriss Owen (Diabetes lead) Tarun Narula (CVD lead), Seema Kumari (Respiratory lead), Sohrab Panday (Mental Health lead)

Prioritisation for Long Term Conditions

This is the [final version](#) that supersedes any previous issues.

This is the [document](#) outlining how to find searches.

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Diabetes

NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme: Facilitation Officer support available to GP Practices across Derbyshire

ICS Health & Wellbeing currently deliver the NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme for patients at risk of developing Type 2 Diabetes across Derbyshire. As part of this service offer there is a Facilitation Officer that can assist with easier and alternate ways to refer patients into the programme. Sarah Gibson (Facilitation Officer) can support your Practice Managers/Practice Nurses with any issues the practice is experiencing i.e. referrals, support with referral templates on the system (SystemOne/EMIS) and read codes etc. This will aim to ensure eligible patients can seamlessly access this service with ease and furthermore prevent the ongoing and increasing burden of Type 2 Diabetes within your practice and across the NHS system.

With regards to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the service have implemented changes to the delivery method of the NHS DPP service to continue to support people remotely during these times where social isolation is a significant challenge, mental wellbeing is being tested and physical health is perhaps being neglected. Please be assured that The NHS DPP service is now being delivered through remote means (telephone consultation) and therefore referring into the programme now will provide the opportunity for your patients to access. **Further information and an introduction from Sarah Gibson are detailed [here](#).**

We highly recommend and encourage all GP Practices to engage with Sarah to ensure that registered patients that are at risk of developing Type 2 Diabetes are referred into the programme and supported to better manage their conditions etc. Therefore, if you would like to engage with the programme please contact Sarah.Gibson@icshealth.co.uk or **07790924906** to arrange how support can be offered to your GP Practice.

Additional programme information:

For Patients:

This [summary](#) gives an outline of the programme offer, including joining the programme during COVID-19

[Letter of service offer to patients](#)

For Primary Care Staff:

[Referral form/template](#) (should also be on SystemOne)

[Script for Primary Care staff](#), should any patients be identified as eligible for the

programme.

Reference Links/Resources:

<https://preventing-diabetes.co.uk/>

Diabetes UK Community Labs Offer (to all healthcare professionals across Derbyshire and anyone interested in the future of diabetes care): Diabetes UK will be hosting a range of community conversations to explore lessons learnt during the current pandemic and what it means for the future of diabetes care. See summary of offer below.

Join our community conversation about improving diabetes care! As part of our next [Lab](#), we will be hosting a series of [informal and creative online conversations](#) exploring what we have learned in this moment of pandemic, and what it means for the future of diabetes care. Our aim is to create a space where diverse perspectives, ideas and reflections can be shared. The sessions are open to anyone interested in the future of diabetes care, and are held online via Zoom at 7pm on Thursdays for the next four weeks. We hope to hear from you and meet you at the sessions! [Register online and find out more about the Lab here.](#)

Diabetes Guidance in Primary Care during COVID-19

Guidance has been developed by NHS England & Improvement and East of England Clinical Network GP Lead Dr Chirag Bakhai. This [document](#) is intended to guide and support General Practices with the delivery of diabetes care during the COVID-19 pandemic. Recognising the challenges faced relating to workforce and capacity, and considering the management of ongoing care needs alongside the risks posed by face-to-face contact during the pandemic, this document aims to give practical, pragmatic advice, with supporting examples, regarding approaches to the delivery of diabetes care in the 'new normal'.

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Cardiovascular Disease

Covid-19 Influencing the [redesign and recovery of NHS health and care services](#) for people with heart and circulatory diseases during the pandemic and beyond

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British Heart Foundation – <https://www.bhf.org.uk/>

Diabetes UK – <https://diabetes.org.uk/>

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