



Monday 28 March 2022

What's in your Partners in Care bulletin?

This weekly bulletin provides details of training, guidance, access to past editions and lots more. There's also helpful information on the web pages dedicated to our Independent Care Provider colleagues.

[Please click here to bookmark these pages](#)



Vaccination as Condition of Deployment- Reminder

We have had a few questions with regard to whether providers are required to continue checking vaccination status of visiting professionals, and can confirm that this condition has been revoked for all health and social care staff from 15 March. This means providers do not need to check this for visiting professionals, however they are required to continue checking COVID test status and visiting staff must continue to show proof as a condition of entry. The guidance setting this out can be found through this [link](#).

Outbreak Period for Care Homes

Please note that the outbreak period for care homes has been reduced down from 14 days to 10 days. The guidance on [admissions to care homes](#) and [visiting care homes](#) has been updated to reflect this. The updated admissions guidance goes on to say that in some cases, an outbreak may be considered over at day 7, subject to local advice on a case by case basis. Your local authorities are looking at what this may look like in terms of decision making and will provide an update in due course.



Immedicare Telemedicine Service- When to Call

The funded telemedicine service that the majority of our older persons care homes have access to has now been live for 2 months, and has already had over **160** calls made by homes to date. A reminder that this service is there to support you and your staff when you have concerns about a resident, and can provide clinical advice for a wide range of areas including those detailed above. They can also where appropriate make the onward referral to another service, such as your GP Practice, community nurses or out of hours services where they think a face to face visit required. Further details of the service including a useful guide on when to call as well as user guides can be found through our [website](#).

However for any emergency, homes **MUST** always contact 999 first and are able to then contact the Telemedicine hub for support until the paramedics arrive e.g. for cardiac chest pain, stroke, severe head injury or loss of consciousness. The delay in calling Telemedicine first in these cases could be critical.

Need to know



Capacity Tracker Update

Providers and Capacity Tracker account holders should have all received an email from the Department of health and Social Care on Thursday, setting out the role of the tracker going forward and how it will be used to support providers, facilitate identification of vacancies/hours available to assist discharges and to identify any system challenges on a local and national level. The most points and changes will be:

- From **Monday 04 April**, the Infection Control and Rapid Testing Fund will cease and many of the IPC questions care homes are required to answer linked to this will be removed. Flu Vaccination and some other questions no longer required will cease, and update frequency for many questions including around workforce and COVID-19 vaccination will reduce to weekly.
- Also from this data, fields will be added for care homes to record number of residents who have received their second booster dose.
- Further work is ongoing shaped by provider feedback to improve remaining questions to make sure they deliver the data that are needed for decision making by DHSC, yourselves as providers, councils, and the wider social care community

Thank you for all providers for continuing to update the tracker, the time it takes to do this has an immeasurable difference in helping us target support who providers in need and supporting rapid discharges. This will continue to be important going forward, and hopefully the changes made will minimise the time it takes providers to complete.



Nutrition Resources for Care Providers and Vitamin D Update

Nicola Sumpter from York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust attended Partners in Care last week, to update on the training programme she has been working with Selby care homes on to support the nutritional needs of their resident. However the [resources](#) she uses are available to all providers who would find them useful. This includes details of nutritional shot drinks, carbohydrate portion control for those with diabetes, a workbook that staff are able to use and links to further training opportunities. For more information please contact nicola.sumpter1@nhs.net

We have also updated the webpage to include a link to [further information and guidance](#) to help providers support those who need to take Vitamin D supplements. PHE/NICE guidance recommends that people living in care homes or who are not often outdoors (for example, people who are housebound) should consider taking vitamin D 10 microgram nutritional supplements all year round. Adult social care providers should have a policy on how you will support people to meet this recommendation.

York Carers Awareness Training

When: Tuesday 19 April 10.30-12.30 or Tues 16th August 1030-1230

York Carers Centre are offering an introductory session for all staff who work with unpaid carers in a professional capacity, focusing on how they can identify and support them through their roles as well the support available for unpaid carers across the city. The session will include a presentation, have brief introductions, share information around current carer issues (such as Covid-19/isolation), engage in discussions, include a quiz and share links to carer films on YouTube. For further information or to book please contact: sam.varo@nhs.net

Learning and Development Opportunities

Project ECHO Palliative Care Clinics- Palliative Care Emergency Clinic: Bowel Obstruction

When: Wednesday 06 April 14.00-15.00

The Project ECHO team run through St Leonards Hospice and St Catherine's Hospice are hosting a series of clinics . These are designed and shaped by the community of Nursing staff working across the region in palliative care. On Zoom, these Hospice-led clinics will provide mutual learning, practical guidance, case studies and support.

To register please contact ProjectECHOTeam@stleonardshospice.nhs.uk



Skills for Care Webinar- Wellbeing Leadership

When: Wednesday 04 May 10.30-11.00

This webinar will focus on wellbeing leadership and what good looks like. We will share practical tips, tools and ideas and you will also hear from others on how they create a wellbeing culture. You will have the opportunity to help shape the content of the webinar by completing the registration questions included.

For more information and to register please follow this [link](#)

Further Information

Contacts for Incident Reporting- Updated Process

- To report any patient safety concerns regarding York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, please complete and submit this [form](#). For York Hospital please send to yhs-tr.s2s@nhs.net or for Scarborough Hospital to freya.oliver@york.nhs.uk. This will allow the Trust to continuously receipt, acknowledge and investigate these concerns.
- To make a complaint or to highlight any concerns regarding Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust, please email yas.patientrelations@nhs.net. Please find through this [link](#) a template which you are able to complete, which will ensure they have all the information required to investigate.



Norovirus Spring Alert

Norovirus outbreaks in care homes have risen in recent weeks, leading the UKHSA to remind people of simple steps that can be taken to limit the spread of the bug. Early identification of symptoms of Norovirus infections. The Community Infection Prevention Team have put together these useful [slides](#) sharing how to early identifying and isolate an outbreak, report and outbreak and break the chain of infection using hand hygiene, PPE and enhanced cleaning.

This bulletin is produced by NHS Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group.

Do you have.....

- **thoughts or comments to share?**
- **news that you would like to feature in the bulletin?**
- **items to be discussed at the next Partners in Care Meeting?**

If so please contact sam.varo@nhs.net