



Supporting General Practice
to be the best for our communities

Nursing Newsletter

Issue: March 2026



Dear Colleagues

Wessex LMCs' Introduction



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Wessex Local Medical Committees Ltd

Welcome to March's edition of the Nursing newsletter, please do share this with anyone in your teams that may benefit from the information enclosed. As we look forward to the lighter days ahead, it finally feels like we're turning a corner. There is a hint of spring in the air and with the season beginning to shift, it is a moment to pause, reconnect, and catch up on what's new.

Update to National Minimum Standards for Immunisation Training – additional resources

In our [September Nursing Newsletter](#), we highlighted the need for all healthcare professionals involved in administering the influenza vaccine to have the necessary knowledge, skills, training and mechanisms in place to supply and safely administer influenza vaccines. ([National Minimum Standards and Core Curriculum for Vaccination Training - GOV.UK](#)). As a consequence of the concerns raised by practices in relation to this update published in June 2025, we have produced a suite of resources and guidance materials which are available on our [webpage](#), including links to useful documents, and Wessex LMCs' [podcasts](#) explaining the different types of consent and the differences between a PGD and PSD.

RSV Vaccination Programme

Also, in our [September Newsletter](#) we highlighted the extension of the RSV vaccination programme enabling GP practices to continue to vaccinate people who turned (or will turn) 80 years old from 1 September 2024 until 31 August 2026 using a Patient Specific Direction (PSD) as the legal authorisation. In this edition, we wanted to highlight a further change to this programme from April 2026, which was announced in a recent [Primary Care Bulletin](#)

The government has accepted advice from the [Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation \(JCVI\)](#) to expand the eligibility criteria for the older adult RSV vaccination programme to include all those aged 80 years and over and all residents of care homes for older adults from 1 April 2026.

NHS England and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) have [published a letter on the expansion](#), outlining the upcoming changes for those responsible for commissioning and operationally delivering the programme.

The [Green Book chapter](#) has also been updated to reflect this forthcoming change.

Spring 2026 COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign: Training Webinars

The Spring 2026 campaign introduces a new provider-led vaccine supply model. NHS England is hosting training webinars (23 February – 11 March) to help providers understand how to order vaccine, manage allocations and use the Federated Data Platform.

Sessions available:

- [GP Practice Providers](#) (4 sessions, including evening)

Full details are available on the [vaccine and screening NHS Futures workspace](#). Each session covers the same content – providers need only attend one per category. Attendees should log into the Federated Data Platform beforehand.

National HPV Catch Up Campaign 2025/26

As a follow up to our article in [September's newsletter](#), we thought it would be useful to share links to some of the resources available to practices to support this campaign:

- GP guidance and materials: Wessex Cancer Alliance Primary Care pages: [Cancer Prevention Toolkit](#)
- Patient information: [HPV vaccine - NHS](#)
- Easy Read guide: [Easy read guide](#) to the HPV vaccination
- Further reading: [Cervical cancer: the cancer of inequalities](#) – Doctors of the World



MMRV Coding

We have been made aware that some practices may be using templates for recording immunisations that are not recording MMRV.

Ardens have released an update (**v19.7**) to their template which reflects the changes to the Childhood Immunisation programme, and which practices are encouraged to use to ensure accurate coding. Those practices who use locally configured templates rather than Ardens, should ensure that these are updated accordingly.

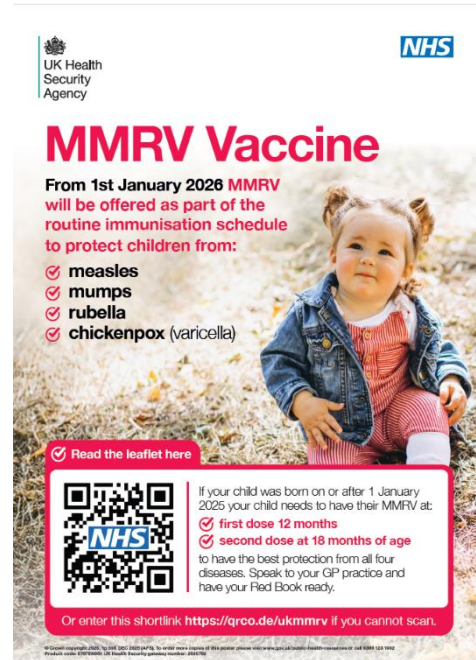
For TPP users, we understand that the system will not allow you to record MMRV at 12 months if you click on varicella on the "grid" as there is nothing to click on. However, if you click on any of the MMR triangles due at 12 months, MMRV appears on the drop down and when selected will record correctly. TPP will not be changing the grid. It is therefore important to ensure the correct dose is given according to UKHSA guidance and not to rely solely on the grid for clinical decisions.

The correct SNOMED codes are as follows:

MMRV procedure codes:

432636005 | Administration of vaccine product containing only Human Alphaherpesvirus 3 and Measles Morbillivirus and Mumps Orthorubulavirus and Rubella Virus Antigens (procedure)

433733003 | Administration of second dose of vaccine product containing only Human Alphaherpesvirus 3 and Measles Morbillivirus and Mumps Orthorubulavirus and Rubella Virus Antigens (procedure)



MMRV product codes:

45480711000001107 | ProQuad vaccine powder and solvent for suspension for injection 0.5ml pre-filled syringes (Merck Sharp & Dohme (UK) Ltd) (product)

45525711000001102 | Priorix Tetra vaccine powder and solvent for solution for injection 0.5ml pre-filled syringes (GlaxoSmithKline UK Ltd) (product)

See: [SW Vaccination and screening bulletin. Issue 260: 3rd November 2025.](#)

New Digital Communications for Bowel Cancer Screening

The NHS is transitioning to a digital-first approach for bowel cancer screening communications via the NHS App, aiming to reduce reliance on postal letters and cut costs. Currently, 25 million letters costing £14.7 million are sent annually. Digital pre-invitations will be rolled out nationally by February 2026, following successful trials in the Northeast and Yorkshire, which showed a 6% increase in timely kit returns. Paper letters will remain as a backup for those without digital access. This shift is expected to save £9 million over three years. See [NHS Transformation Bulletin Nov/Dec 2025](#).

Continuing with the subject of bowel cancer screening, NHS England is [introducing a lower threshold](#) for the bowel screening test ([FIT](#)) intended to detect smaller amounts of blood in stool samples. The test, offered to 50-74 year-olds, will improve diagnosis, catching potential cancers at an earlier stage when they're easier to treat successfully.

Testing at the lower threshold is expected to identify an additional 600 bowel cancers and 2,000 high-risk polyps every year that might otherwise have been missed. Removing high-risk polyps before they develop into cancer prevents bowel cancer altogether. Visit [NHS Futures](#) for more information.

See: [NHSE Primary Care Bulletin 29 Jan 2026](#)

Practice Teams may be interested in accessing Wessex LMCs recorded educational webinar focusing on [Breast and Bowel Cancer](#). The aim of this webinar is to raise awareness of some of the early symptoms of breast and bowel cancer. There will be a look at the red flags and a review of the tools to help consider a referral to investigate further. This is FREE to access for Wessex LMCs members.



Change of Vaccine – Routine Pneumococcal Vaccination

The routine adult pneumococcal vaccination and vaccination for individuals at increased clinical risk will switch from PPV-23 to PCV-20 in early 2026. Existing PPV-23 stocks should be used first, with PCV-20 following the same single-dose schedule. The transition is expected between January and February 2026, and PCV-20 will be available via ImmForm in packs of 10 pre-filled syringes. A dose of either vaccine counts as complete, so no repeat dose is needed. PCV-13 remains part of the infant schedule, but PCV-20 may replace PCV-13 for certain high-risk children and immunosuppressed individuals, with dosing guidance provided in the Pneumococcal Green Book. An updated PGD will be circulated to reflect these changes. See [Change of vaccine for the routine adult pneumococcal vaccination programme and individuals at increased clinical risk letter - GOV.UK](#).

How Art Therapy Could Cut Staff Burnout Risk

Researchers from Queen Mary University of London and Barts Health NHS Trust worked with doctors, nurses and other health professional from London hospitals to study the effects of group art therapy sessions. Read more [here](#). (Office of the Chief Allied Health Professions Officer bulletin - January 2026)

National Patient Safety Alert – Recording Penicillin Allergies

A National Patient Safety Alert has been issued on the risk of harm from healthcare staff incorrectly recording patients' penicillin allergies as penicillamine allergies in electronic prescribing systems. This error can result in

patients with known penicillin allergies being prescribed penicillin-based antibiotics, increasing the risk of a potentially fatal anaphylactic reaction.

Primary and secondary care organisations are being asked to identify and review affected patients' records and act appropriately to correct any inaccuracies, implement additional safeguards in training and processes, and work with digital system suppliers to develop technical mitigations. All actions must be completed within 12 months. See [NHSE Primary Care Bulletin 4 Dec 2025](#).

Scheme to Reconnect Thousands with HIV Treatment

The Government has [launched a scheme](#) that will see thousands of people benefit from improved HIV testing and treatment under a new [HIV Action Plan for England, 2025 to 2030](#).

As part of the plan, a £5 million trial will see home HIV testing kits ordered through the NHS App. The trial will allow at-risk patients to order home HIV tests, receive results securely, and contact their GP or sexual health clinics - all from their phone. The new digital service will offer a discreet route for those anxious about their sexual health to get tested without visiting a clinic. See: [NHSE Primary Care Bulletin 4 Dec 2025](#).

Updated Children and Young People's Eating Disorder Guidance Published

The updated [children and young people's \(CYP\) Eating Disorder guidance](#) aims to ensure eating disorder provision best meets the needs of children and young people and their families. Drawing on up-to-date clinical advice and evidence-based practice, the guidance supports ICBs and providers to design and deliver specialist clinical services which integrate with schools, GPs, children and young people community mental health services and paediatrics, to ensure access to effective intervention at the earliest opportunity.

The Guidance is accompanied by updated [Technical Reporting Guidance](#) for the CYP Eating Disorder Access and Waiting Time Standard, and implementation support resources are available on [NHS Futures](#). A post-publication webinar will be held in Spring (date TBC). See [NHSE Primary Care Bulletin 29 Jan 2026](#).

Autism Central: A free NHS service for professionals to add to their autism signposting toolkit

Families and support networks of autistic people often need guidance and connection. [Autism Central](#) offers exactly that – and you can help more people access it by signposting the people you treat and support to this free NHS-commissioned service.

Autism Central provides peer education for parents, carers, partners, siblings, adult children, friends, colleagues and neighbours of autistic people of all ages in England. The service offers group learning events, one-to-one coaching and online resources – all led by peer educators with lived experience. The programme has already supported more than 30,000 families, with 95% of attendees recommend it to others. See: [healthcare inequalities improvement programme update 26.2.2026](#).

We are Looking for an In-House Nursing Advisor

Are you a Practice Nurse or Advanced Nurse Practitioner passionate about supporting and shaping nursing across Wessex? We're building a small bank of skilled nursing professionals to help us enhance our resources, education, and guidance for nurses and HCAs in General Practice.

This is a flexible, ad-hoc consultancy-style role designed to fit around your existing commitments. You'll work with our team to share clinical insight, influence training, and ensure our content remains relevant and high quality.

If you're enthusiastic, collaborative, and keen to make a wider impact, we'd love to hear from you.

Read the full role and how to apply: [In-House Nursing Advisor Role - Wessex LMCs](#)

Introduction to Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) for HCAs - via Zoom



Wednesday, 25 March 2026 09:30 - 16:00

**All members of staff working within GP practices in Wessex LMCs' catchment £160pp
See listing for funding eligibility.**

BOOK NOW



This course has been designed for those HCAs supporting Long Term Condition reviews in relation to cardiovascular disease and hypertension. The day will offer an insight into vascular disease and the management of related conditions.

There will be focus on health promotion and change management to support the patient in self-care and the HCA will be competent to manage the consultation with a greater understanding of the relevance of data collection and how this impacts on the future health planning.

The objectives of this live-online, trainer led session are to:

- Have an appreciation of cardiovascular disease as an 'umbrella' term
- Accurately record a BP or ECG
- Have knowledge of CVD risk factors and when to escalate to a clinician
- Be able to support the patient with disease management
- Recognise 'red flags' and know when to refer to a clinician
- Accurately complete data templates for QoF

During this session we will be covering:

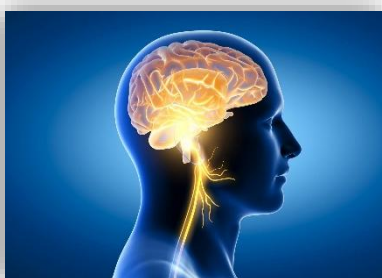
- A&P of the heart
- What is CVD?
- Recording a blood pressure
- The annual review
- The value of blood tests
- ECG recording
- Resources and guidelines

Previous Delegate Feedback:



"I Really enjoyed this course. It was very informative and I really enjoyed the participation aspect. I was very apprehensive as some areas were completely new to me, but the trainer explained everything very thoroughly in a way that was easy to understand and relate to my job within general practice"

Examination of the Neurological System for the Primary Care Practitioner - via Zoom



Thursday 16th April 2026 09:30 – 12:30

**All members of staff working within GP practices in Wessex LMCs' catchment area £80pp.
See listing for funding eligibility.**

BOOK NOW



This practical, interactive session is designed to support Practice Nurses in updating their knowledge and clinical skills in neurological assessment. Whether you're returning to practice, expanding your scope, or simply looking to sharpen your techniques, this refresher offers clear, structured guidance in a supportive learning environment.

This training aims to equip participants with the skills to undertake a focused and clinically relevant neurological history, develop a clear understanding of the six key components of a neurological examination, and enhance their ability to distinguish between normal and abnormal findings.

Additionally, the session will support learners in recognising red flag signs and symptoms that may indicate serious or urgent neurological conditions.

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Refresh their knowledge of the history-taking process, with a focus on neurological symptom analysis.
- Assess a patient's mental status effectively.
- Perform an examination of the cranial nerves and reflexes.
- Conduct a thorough assessment of motor and sensory function.
- Evaluate coordination and gait as part of a comprehensive neurological examination.

Don't miss your chance to attend this informative and engaging session.

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The LMC Team

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