



Covid vaccination programme

The five vaccination sites at Debenham, Trinity Park, Haverhill, Woodbridge and Stowmarket, commenced on time in the second week of January. This is probably the most pressured service any of us have ever been involved with, involving intense scrutiny on an hourly basis. It has been a massive team effort to deliver 60,000 jabs in the first six weeks.

In a few short weeks the team set up five sites, a telephone booking team, an IT/data team and an Onboarding team who have recruited 800 new staff. The programme itself has been constantly changing with new surprises every day. Thank you to all of the Fed and member practice staff, and volunteers who are working so hard to deliver the programme.

Vaccination Zoom clinical webinars -11 March 1.30pm

We will hold a series of short Zoom meetings on different aspects of the programme for GPs, nurse supervisors and anyone else who is interested. The idea is to combine a topical clinical subject (e.g. fundamentals of vaccination and the difference between genetic and viral vector vaccines) and then a practical discussion. Please feel free just to join using the link below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6240279191?pwd=akNkZEFXUmdKdXcrR05nM0VWQ2tqdz09>

Meeting ID: 624 027 9191 - Passcode: 12345

Podiatry backlog

The team have made brilliant progress, with the backlog down from 1,400 before Christmas to 690. The aim is to get back to pre-pandemic 'normal' waiting list of about 250.

Covid surge support

In preparation for the post-Christmas Covid surge, we worked with partners to put in initiatives to support our hospitals and the wider system. For example, in North East Essex many of our diabetes team were deployed to the wards at Colchester Hospital.

In Suffolk we introduced a clinical advice service for ambulance crews, REACT, community nurses, Community Hospitals and Hospices. Based at Riverside the service has calls answered by a senior local clinician using SystemOne/Emis.

Calls increased from 302 in December to 909 in January- mostly in the out of hours period. Around 85% are managed in the community with advice, a script or occasionally an appointment. We also have a car and clinician available 24/7 in case a visit is needed although we have found this happens infrequently.

We also activated the Pandemic Home Visiting Service in December with FFP3 fitted clinicians. This has now been decommissioned but as in the spring provided good support for local primary care.

The service helped contribute to reduction in patients conveyed to hospital – which was remarkable given the situation during this time. The service demonstrates the value of a locally staffed clinical advice hub which is something we have been arguing for some time.

Cervical screening service

We are now focusing on hard-to-reach groups including those from deprived communities, LGBT, patients with mental health conditions and women who have never had a smear test.

The project's aim includes educating patients and healthcare professionals to reduce barriers and improve take-up. We will be contacting practices over the next few months to collaboratively increase uptake.

Please continue to book patients into the GP+ Practice Nurse clinics at Ipswich, Felixstowe and Wickham Market. Please book a double appointment, educational telephone appointment, Language Line or any other reasonable adjustments.

The campaign can be followed on www.facebook.com/Cervical.Screening Please contact melissa.tooke@suffolkfed.org.uk if you need support or have a particular interest in this subject and would like to help.

LARC service

Public Health has asked us to run a six-month pilot to reduce the backlog of patients waiting for LARC. Current capacity is 100 patients a month at Riverside or Drovers House in Bury.

The service is for patients requiring LARC for contraception, Heavy Menstrual Bleeding and Hormone Replacement Therapy, and can fit and remove IUDs, IUS and implants.

Practices should send their LARC waiting lists or individual patients to Catriona McCallum our Nurse Clinical Lead (catriona.mccallum@nhs.net) Please include the patient's name, DOB or NHS number, a contact phone number and what the patient requires.

We will then contact individual patients and make an appointment for a telephone consultation after which they will be booked in for a fitting. Our aim is to complete the patient's care within one month of receiving their details. We will then update their practice. We do not routinely follow-up and this will need to be undertaken by their practice if necessary.