



UPDATES

PAGE 1

SAFEGUARDING
SPRING COVID
FLU

PAGE 2

IMMUNISATIONS
CNSGP
OPENSAFELY

PAGE 3

ESNEFT
QOF
MEDICINES

PAGE 4

FED UPDATES

PAGE 5

FED UPDATES

PAGE 6

RECRUITMENT
WHATSAPP

Payments for Safeguarding work

The impending transition within the ICB is likely to bring considerable change in many areas – not least safeguarding. Whilst the operational details of these issues are yet to be confirmed, practices are reminded that there are at least 4 elements of safeguarding work that should be reimbursed:

- Attendance at Child Protection Conferences (these are face to face and it is rare for a GP to attend due to time)
- Completion of a Child protection Conference Report
- Completion of an Information Sharing Form as part of a Section 17 or 47 request from social care.
- Completion of a Safeguarding Adult Review Report (These are rare, the ICB Safeguarding Team would be in touch with your surgery if this was needed) OR Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDRs).

Individual claim forms exist for each of the above items.

C19 Spring 2026 Campaign Sign Up

Practices will have noted that the additional payment for administering COVID spring boosters to housebound patients has been removed. This should prompt reflection and a re-evaluation of whether signing up to the programme remains viable for your practice.

2026/27 COVID-19 and adult influenza vaccination service

In line with the above, practices will also have noted that the additional payment for housebound vaccinations has been removed from the now combined COVID-19 and adult influenza vaccination service specification for 2026/27.

While this may lead practices to reconsider the viability of offering the service, it is worth noting that the ICB is planning to issue a simple LES for a brief health check for housebound patients. This could be delivered alongside routine housebound visits and/or the vaccination programme. Further details, including the fee, will be shared shortly.

N.B. The 2 February sign-up date for the vaccination service is flexible if you wish to delay signing up pending further information. This has been confirmed with the ICB.



Primary Contact

support@suffolklmc.co.uk

Dr Peter Smye (Medical Director)

p.smye@nhs.net

Aimee Longfoot (Chief Executive)

aimee.longfoot@nhs.net

Dr Sarah Caston (Medical Officer)

sarah.caston@nhs.net

Charlie Page (Executive Officer)

charlie.page@nhs.net

[Click here to see a list of](#)

[Committee Members](#)

Query following the new guidelines for HCAs administering immunisations

Following requests for clarity, the BMA has now published its “Focus On...” note reflecting UKHSA’s position, [see here](#).

The BMA has also confirmed, following discussions with UKHSA, that digital routes to RHCP-led consent (similar to school immunisation models) are acceptable, provided there is a non-digital alternative, patients can access appropriate information, and there is a clear route to speak to an RHCP where needed.

For many practices this is likely to add clinician time and extra admin/governance steps, so it’s worth sense-checking the impact on throughput and costs in your planned flu model before committing. The LMC will continue to feed back any workload and funding implications.

CNSGP scope relating to AI in practices

A reminder that any clinical negligence claim arising from the use of an AI device, as part of services delivered by practice staff working under an NHS primary care contract (GMS, PMS, APMS) **will be covered under the CNSGP**.

The question of whether an AI error resulted in a clinical issue would fall to be considered as part of liability investigations carried out into the claim. This may include looking into the AI tool itself together with the contractual arrangements around its use to consider whether it would be appropriate to involve any other parties in the claim.

As the use of AI will inevitably involve the processing of personal data, matters involving breach of data protection legislation or personal data claims made on the grounds of breach of contract are **not covered under CNSGP**.

OpenSAFELY

Practices in England are reminded to continue to activate the OpenSAFELY data analytics service if they haven’t yet done so. This service the full support of the BMA and RCGP



ESNEFT/EPIC Changes

We are aware that the impact of EPIC is still being felt across East Suffolk. The LMC regularly attends various forums relating to this and continues to really value “concrete” examples from practices of issues!

Community Midwives (East Suffolk)

It is with regret that we note that the Community Midwife team no longer use S1 and therefore will not see any tasks you have sent.

For urgent matters please email community.midwifery@esneft.nhs.uk

Turn your WhatsApp Grumbles into System Change!

ESNEFT

A reminder that there is a dedicated inbox for ESNEFT interface queries.

GPInterface@esneft.nhs.uk

To date, all queries have had an initial response within 3 working days (except 1 due to sender AL) and 82% responded with first update on the same day received.

WSFT

We are hopeful that WSFT will be in a position to offer a similar, single point of contact shortly and welcome the commencement of Dr Evelin Hanikat in this space. Queries via the support inbox/LMC WhatsApp or usual direct to trust routes (cc'ing Dr Hanikat for systemic issues).

QOF Diabetes indicators

Prior to changing over to EPIC, Ipswich Diabetes Centre had been recording annual Diabetes reviews directly into SystemOne. This meant that the QOF codes for each component of the review were added, or were easily searchable when coding for QOF. As IDS are no longer using SystemOne these codes will now have to be added by Data Teams/AI.

The checks that have been done should be clear from the clinic letter sent by the IDS to practices (although we are aware this was not the case initially).

Medicine Management

The LMC is particularly mindful of the operational pressures created by 2 recently received proposals - firstly a proposed change to TLS relating to Finerenone (a mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist used in CKD stage onwards) which comes with monitoring requirements. In addition the muted changes to DM prescribing guidance (with "GLP-1s" second line) are likely to have an impact in the context of the fixed funding ascribed to the current Suffolk DM LES. The committee intends to review this shortly.

Your GP Fed Board

Chair	Dr Nick Rayner – Oakfield, Newmarket
Medical Director	Dr Ruth Bushaway
Chief Executive	David Pannell

Non-executive directors

Andrea Clarke	Orchard Street Practice Manager, Ipswich
Dr Paul Driscoll	Haven Health, Felixstowe
Dr Andrew Hall	Felixstowe Road, Ipswich
Dr Mark Hunter	Guildhall & Barrow, Bury
Dr John Lynch	Framfield House, Woodbridge
James Pawsey	Ivry St, Ipswich
Dr Simon Rudland	Sessional GP
Dr Peter Smye	Guildhall & Barrow, Bury
Jane Wallace	Wickham Market Practice Manager
Dr Firas Watfeh	Haverhill Family Practice



Exec Intro

Welcome to 2026 and the Fed Newsletter. This edition focuses on practical delivery and support during a busy winter period. Alongside updates on Out of Hours, Health Checks and system pressures, it highlights areas where the Federation and Member Services are working with practices to reduce burden, strengthen governance and share learning. Further detail on several of these initiatives will follow in future issues as work progresses.

Fed Clinical Services Roundup

Christmas and New Year OOH Service Update

Over the Christmas and New Year period, the Fed's Out of Hours GP Service delivered 2,985 consultations across Suffolk.

The busiest day was Saturday 27 December, with 602 consultations completed.

Alongside this activity, teams continued to:

- Provide clinical advice lines to EEAST crews and community nursing teams
- Operate East and West Suffolk visiting cars seven days a week
- Support EEAST, REACT and EIT with conveyance avoidance

Additional GP capacity was also provided within ED streaming at West Suffolk Hospital, supporting patients more appropriately managed through primary care. Plans are in place to continue supporting system pressures over the coming months.

Weight Management Service

Member Services at the Fed will be supporting practices with the delivery of the new Single Point of Access for the National Weight Management Programme. Where patients are assessed as suitable for a national programme, referrals will be passed to the Fed for onward processing, helping reduce administrative burden for practices. Further details will follow closer to go-live.

Health Checks Update

The NHS Health Checks contract, taken on by the Federation in 2024, ensures that funding generated through delivery is retained within primary care. The majority of Health Checks are delivered by practices across Suffolk & Waveney, with a smaller proportion delivered by the Fed and participating pharmacies. With over 17,000 Health Checks completed so far this financial year, delivery continues to strengthen. Practices can deliver above their agreed targets this year and will be paid for additional checks completed

West Suffolk Fracture Liaison Service

Practices interested in training or updates on fragility fracture management and osteoporosis can contact:

- Nicola Burrows, Clinical Lead, West Suffolk Fracture Liaison Service, nicola.burrows5@nhs.net
- Referrals for bone health assessment following a fragility fracture should be submitted via: suffolk.ccc@esneft.nhs.uk
- For general queries or Denosumab-related advice: sgpfed.westsuffolkfls@nhs.net or call 01473 372 946

Member Services

Member Services Showcase Event – save the date

Please save the date for a Member Services Showcase on **Tuesday 24 February in Bury St Edmunds**. This will be a drop-in event for all primary care staff, offering the chance to explore the range of support available to practices, including short workshops, practical advice, and opportunities to connect with colleagues and the Member Services team.

The day will also include the first public introduction of AldeWell, a new wellbeing offer for primary care staff in Suffolk. Registration opens on 02 February, with further details to follow.

Clinical Safety Officer (CSO) Training

CSO training took place on 20 January, with 18 clinicians attending, including colleagues from North East Essex. The session reflected strong alignment across organisations and a shared approach to digital clinical safety.

Further CSO training is planned for both clinical and non-clinical roles. To register your interest for future courses, please email memberservices@suffolkfed.org.uk



Growing Team

We are pleased to welcome Lewis and Tracey to the Member Services team, increasing our capacity to support practices both on site and remotely. If you would like to discuss how the Team can help support your practice, drop them an email or speak to them at the Showcase on 24 February.



CQC Readiness

Member Services is working closely with the LMC to develop a CQC readiness offer for practices, focused on practical support rather than inspection simulation.

To shape this work, we want to understand what practices actually want and would find most useful. Practices are invited to:

- Share feedback directly with memberservices@suffolkfed.org.uk or
- Chat to us over a cuppa at the Member Services Showcase in February about your ideas, gaps, or where targeted support would be most helpful.

Learning from Practice Mergers

Recent mergers within Unity Healthcare have generated valuable operational and organisational learning. Member Services is capturing this learning into a practical, evolving resource covering governance, workforce, estates and systems considerations. We are able to offer support and advice to practices considering mergers or acquisitions, tailored to local circumstances.

Datix – Supporting Practice-led Governance

Practices already manage incidents and the learning from them effectively, but approaches vary. Member Services is exploring whether a federation-supported Datix option could help strengthen governance, identify themes, and evidence learning for CQC. Any approach would be optional, practice-led and complementary to existing processes. We will update practices on the outcome of the feasibility work in a future issue.

You're receiving this update as part of Suffolk GP Federation's regular communications. You can update your preferences or unsubscribe at any time by [clicking here](#).



Suffolk LMC

NEWSLETTER

The LMC have been planning East and West practice visits and if we have not yet confirmed a visit, we would love to come and see you! This is an opportunity for us to visit practices across Suffolk to meet the team, explain in more detail who we are and what we do and answer any questions you may have about us. If you have not yet booked a date, please reach out and we will get this sorted!

Recruitment - Take a look at our current [live vacancies](#) across Suffolk. If you would like to advertise a role, just send us the vacancy details along with anything you would like included, such as the job description, how to apply, and a contact person for the role.

To advertise please [email the LMC](#).

Suffolk LMC WhatsApp

A broadcast group, open to all working in primary care in Suffolk, for local clinical nuance, contractual updates and pass-through info from GPC



Suffolk PMs, Managers + LMC WhatsApp

No third parties are included in this group; it is for Senior Managers within Suffolk General Practice only.

