

CLMC Bulletin 369 – 06.11.18

National Data Opt Out

Practices should recently have received a letter from NHS Digital informing them that the codes for the 'type 2' opt-out have been retired and should no longer be used. A 'type 2' opt-out prevented a patient's confidential personal information from leaving NHS Digital for purposes beyond their direct care.

A new national data opt-out model, launched in May, replaces the 'type 2' opt-out. The new model provides an online facility for individuals to opt-out from the use of their confidential data for purposes other than direct care i.e. for the purposes research and health service planning. Patients who had previously registered a 'type 2' opt-out have had this converted into a national data opt-out. It is important that patients are aware of their right to opt-out. Despite efforts to raise public awareness as part of the Information Commissioner's Office 'your data matters' campaign recently published figures show that uptake of the national opt-out has been lower than expected.

Patients can set their opt-out preferences at: <https://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters/> They will need their NHS number and a valid email address or telephone number which is on the GP record or on the Personal Demographics Service database to register their decision to opt out. Patients who are unable to use the online facility can use a phone helpline to manage their choice - 0300 303 5678. A paper print-and-post form is also available: <https://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters/manage-your-choice/other-ways-to-manage-your-choice/>

A patient poster and handout pack was sent to practices in June - these can be accessed at: <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/national-data-opt-out-programme/supporting-patients-information-and-resources>

The new opt-out is provided in line with the recommendations of the National Data Guardian in her 2016 'Review of Data Security, Consent and Opt-Outs'. NHS Digital are applying patients' preferences but there is a longer timetable for implementation across the rest of the system by 2020. The national opt-out will not apply in the following circumstances:

- the patient has given consent to a specific project (e.g. a medical research project)
- statutory requirements to share data (e.g. Section 259 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 which requires providers to share data with NHS Digital)
- where there is an overriding public interest for the opt-out not to apply
- other specific circumstance - for full list of exemptions see: <https://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters/manage-your-choice/where-opt-outs-dont-apply/>

'Type 1' opt-outs will continue to apply and be respected. A 'type 1' opt-out prevents confidential patient information from leaving the GP practice for purposes other than direct care. Practices should continue to record 'type 1' opt-outs.

Prescribing of Cannabis-Based Products

The new regulations to widen the availability of cannabis-based medicinal within the NHS came into effect 1 November 2018. Prescribing is restricted to a doctor on the GMC specialist register prescribing within their field of expertise where the cannabis-based product is an unlicensed 'special' medicinal product for use by a specific patient. Once a product receives a licence from the MHRA, it will be available for prescription in the same way as any other Schedule 2 drug.

The BMA has published some [Q&As](#) to explain what these changes mean, which include links to guidance from [NHS England](#), [BPNA \(for children with epilepsy\)](#), and [RCP and RCR \(recommendations on cannabis-based products for medicinal use\)](#).

NHS England has also published a [patient leaflet](#) which helpfully states that '*You cannot get cannabis-based medicine from your GP - it can only be prescribed by a specialist hospital doctor*'

Consent for Disclosure of Medical Records to Solicitors

The BMA and Law Society have updated the [joint template consent form](#) for the disclosure of medical records to solicitors. The template has undergone a refresh so that it reflects the General Data Protection Regulation. The aim of the template is to help improve the process of seeking consent and to ensure that patients are well informed about these disclosures. The template form is also available within the GPC [guidance on access to health records](#), and as part of the [ethics A-Z](#) – under C.

New Primary Care Workload Observatory

The RCGP Research and Surveillance Centre (RCGP RSC) and Surrey Heartlands Health and Care Partnership are leading an NHS England-funded project to create a new way to understand the demand on GPs. The new national 'workload and case-mix observatory' will be created at the RCGP RSC secure data and analytics hub at the University of Surrey and will collect and monitor data from a network of more than 350 practices across England.

They are looking to increase the number of practices that are currently part of the network; joining will provide practices with the opportunity to be at the forefront of this new development. Further information about the project and how to sign up is available in the embedded document below.



RCGP RSC Workload
observatory briefing

Medicine Supply Issue Updates

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has published the medicine supply update for October (embedded document below).



Supply issues update
for Primary care Octo

Specific updates on Epanutin and Epipen Junior are:

- Epanutin 30mg/5ml oral suspension
There is an impending supply issue with Epanutin 30mg/5ml oral suspension. Pfizer, the sole supplier, have experienced global delays in the manufacturing and are *anticipating a gap in supply from this week until early December when their next batch arrives*.
- Epipen junior – batch numbers
Jext recently extended the shelf life of a number of batches of Jext 150mch and 300mch, but there was an error on the original Dear Health Care Professional letter that was attached in the Annex of the pharmacy validation protocol Q&A. Item 13 on the list is Batch number T6930, but the initial letter stated T9630. Jext states that there is no such batch labelled as T9630. Please see updated letter below



Epipen junior batch
numbers.docx

Physician Associates in Primary Care Survey

As part of the General Practice Forward View, Health Education England (HEE) committed to invest in the training of 1,000 Physician Associates (PAs) to support general practice. To support the delivery of this commitment, they are now planning a campaign to promote and increase numbers of PAs choosing primary care. To help shape their campaign, HEE is seeking views from GPs and practice managers on their draft materials. If you would like to share your view please complete their [survey](#) by 12 November.

GPC Premises Survey

A 'Call for Solutions', is a DoH review seeking input from interested parties for ways in which the GP premises system could be altered to address issues with a wide range of proposals submitted for consideration. Detailed assessment of proposals drawn from this is currently underway.

In order to help inform this process GPC are now running an important premises survey in order to build a fuller picture of the current landscape for GP premises. The online survey can be found at www.research.net/r/BMApremisesurvey and will run until 21st November. It only requires one response per practice and should take no more than 10 minutes to complete.

GPC Newsletter

Read the latest GPC UK newsletter [here](#)