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Sent: 03 April 2020 10:55

Subject: COVID-19 - For information: COVID-19 updates (Independent Sector; Primary Care; PPE)

COVID-19 – Communication from the national team of the NHS Cancer Programme

To: Cancer Alliance Chairs, Clinical Chairs, and Managing Directors
Cc: Regional Cancer SROs, Regional Cancer Deputy SROs, Regional Cancer Programme Leads

For information: COVID-19 updates (Independent Sector; Primary Care; PPE)

Dear all

Please find three updates in the email below related to COVID-19.

1) Independent Sector

Further to the letter circulated last week on [Partnership working with the Independent Sector Providers and the Independent Healthcare Providers Network \(IHPN\)](#), Cancer Alliances should contact their STP independent sector leads to ensure that this work is coordinated at a system level. The STP leads will be able to support liaising with lead Trusts in each area who are supporting access to IS services. If you have any problems making connections locally, please contact england.iscoordination@nhs.net.

2) Primary Care

NHS England and NHS Improvement published the [Network Contract Directed Enhanced Service \(DES\) for 2020/21](#) this week with associated guidance.

Alongside the DES, NHS England and NHS Improvement have written to General Practice and Commissioners with details about the changes to the DES for 2020/21 to support practices and Primary Care Networks (PCNs) to enhance their capacity and ability to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak. The letter notes that Networks should make every possible effort to begin work on the Early Cancer Diagnosis specification as planned unless work to support the COVID-19 response intervenes, and the contractual start date for this work is 1 October in recognition of this possibility. It is important that patients with serious urgent conditions such as cancer are still treated appropriately.

[Best practice guidance](#) for PCNs to help deliver the service requirements has been published and this includes further detail on the role General Practice and Primary Care Networks can play in supporting response to COVID-19 in line with recent [NHS England and NHS Improvement guidance](#), including the appropriate management of 2WW referrals .

3) PPE

Public Health England has published updated guidance on infection and prevention control. It reflects the fact that coronavirus is now widespread in the community, meaning clinicians are more likely to see patients with the virus, some of whom may have minimal or no symptoms. You can find the complete guidance [here](#). The guidance provides detailed information on:

- [Introduction and organisation preparedness](#) (*outlines the infection prevention and control advice for health and social care workers*)
- [COVID-19 personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#)

- [Recommended PPE for healthcare workers by secondary care inpatient clinical setting, NHS and independent sector](#)
- [Recommended PPE for primary, outpatient and community care setting, NHS and independent sector](#)
- You can also find a number of visual and best practice guides / posters on infection prevention and control.

If you have any questions, please send them to england.cancerpolicy@nhs.net including **COVID-19 QUERY** in the subject line.

Many thanks
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