**COVID-19 update**

**23 April 2020**

**In this edition**

* Updates to the RSS COVID-19 webpage
* Laptop supply to primary care – an update
* National guidance around the management of referrals

**Attachments**

* None

**Updates to the RSS COVID-19 webpage**

[Covid-19 HEE NEY Guide to Available Training (Regional and National)](https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/seecmsfile/?id=3787&inline=1)

[Safeguarding children contact list](https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/seecmsfile/?id=3788&inline=1&inline=1) (updated)

[Safeguarding adults contact list](https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/seecmsfile/?id=3789&inline=1&inline=1)(updated)

[Looked after children health team contacts](https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/seecmsfile/?id=3790&inline=1&inline=1) (updated)

**Laptop supply to primary care – an update**

Facilitating and increasing remote working capability within primary care has been one of the key aims of CCG over the last few weeks in response to Covid-19 to support practice business continuity. In an increasingly high demand area the CCG has worked closely with NECS and NHS England to source, build and distribute what will ultimately be 455 additional laptops into practices. Of these, 292 have already been distributed to all of our PCNs with a further 163 due the week commencing 27 April (although a small number of these will potentially be required for corporate use).

The initial intention of the laptops was to support practice staff who are working from home or self-isolating to continue to access key clinical systems through the NECS Checkpoint VPN, with the ultimate aim that the NECS Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (when operational) will deliver a more ‘universal solution’ that provides access to both clinical systems and Practice file shares. In the interim we are exploring a number of alternative remote access solutions that enable access to practice business functions.

There will be a piece of work at some point to review what additional kit has gone into general practice to support Covid-19, and how this helps Practices with IT requirements, and specifically business continuity going forward. This is likely to include a shift towards using more laptops in practices (rather than fixed desktop PC’s) as these undoubtedly provide more flexibility and resilience from a business continuity perspective. Alongside this, it’s likely that the ‘total triage’ model that General Practice has adopted over recent weeks will become a more permanent arrangement – with an increasing requirement for digital access for both practice staff and patients in the future.

**National guidance around the management of referrals**

The CCGs, York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and LMC are aware of the imminent further national guidance around the management of referrals and yesterday requested the date for this to be published from NHS England. As yet there is no confirmed date.

As soon as the guidance is available we will work collaboratively to assess and respond to the requirements and confirm any refreshed local referrals processes to primary care teams as soon as possible.

In the meantime please continue to manage referrals in line with the existing local guidance agreed between local partners in response to the existing national guidance until further notice.  This supports GPs in continuing to refer 2WW and urgent referrals to YTHFT, and to not refer in routine referrals.

GPs can access specialist advice and guidance from every specialty to inform the management of patients who they would normally consider referring in as a routine referral.

GPs are asked to base judgments around urgency of need on usual clinical thresholds (taking into consideration need for non-face to face consultations, likely delays in recommencement of routine elective activity, and communicating likely delays to patients at point of referral).