MINI BULLETIN – 09 October 2023

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| NHS England, Diabetes UK and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation have launched an interactive [peer support tool](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpcc-cic.us5.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Dfe51aa41404cfb64f7d454491%26id%3Dadb6fcb4e5%26e%3D9be2819f9a&data=05%7C01%7C%7C14cdbc5acede4f5614c808dbc8ab58c1%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638324410507525319%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=KaQymWcs2%2FuO7i8O1JOMPMj9LV0ko21OA0TQeYzvJ98%3D&reserved=0) for people living with T**ype 1 Diabetes** which enables clinicians and people to search for local peer support groups. |

[https://www.diabetes.org.uk/get\_involved/volunteer/peer-support-principles](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.diabetes.org.uk%2Fget_involved%2Fvolunteer%2Fpeer-support-principles&data=05%7C01%7C%7C14cdbc5acede4f5614c808dbc8ab58c1%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638324410507525319%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=q8Gsiw1sQGemBlYbeZt3a9E2%2FJyz0WFgIyfNlp0oUJk%3D&reserved=0)

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| **General Practice delivery of travel vaccinations**  The provision of NHS funded travel vaccinations became an essential service from April 2021. Practices are [reminded](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpcc-cic.us5.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Dfe51aa41404cfb64f7d454491%26id%3D067896149b%26e%3D9be2819f9a&data=05%7C01%7C%7C14cdbc5acede4f5614c808dbc8ab58c1%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638324410507681553%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=DyOT4PjOK%2B0hxmdToj6CFNr2SEGrMa7yiRVZD3Nqzy8%3D&reserved=0) they are required to provide Cholera, Hep A, Polio and Typhoid vaccinations free of charge to their registered patients for the purposes of foreign travel.  **US health giant UnitedHealth has been officially cleared for a £1.2bn takeover of GP IT system supplier EMIS** by the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA).    The CMA had been investigating whether the deal could worsen outcomes for the NHS by reducing competition. However in August it [concluded there was no competition concerns and has since been consulting on the final findings of its investigation](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gponline.com%2Fus-health-firm-given-provisional-go-ahead-12bn-takeover-emis%2Farticle%2F1833297&data=05%7C01%7C%7C14cdbc5acede4f5614c808dbc8ab58c1%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638324410507681553%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=M8HqycrrMxvWOsTylqoXOG1E6KI2y8NbeqxMWIgPTDk%3D&reserved=0).  Following that consultation the CMA has now [said the deal is clear to proceed.](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fnews%2Fcma-clears-nhs-healthcare-tech-deal&data=05%7C01%7C%7C14cdbc5acede4f5614c808dbc8ab58c1%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638324410507681553%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=QH2AfMH1hGMwX72n13YMv8ZhMH6DTKCnxW5%2BSvXcwDU%3D&reserved=0)  EMIS currently supplies clinical IT systems to between 50% and 60% of GP practices across the UK. UnitedHealth, which operates as Optum in the UK, is a US-based multinational company that provides healthcare services, insurance and data tools.  In the UK Optum currently supplies software used by GPs when prescribing medicines, along with data analytic tools and advisory services relating to population heath management used by the wider NHS.  Competition concerns  The proposed deal was subject to an in-depth investigation by the CMA after an initial investigation identified concerns that the deal could reduce competition.  The CMA said it had 'received a large number of concerns about the impact of the merger, including from NHS Digital'.  These included concerns that Optum could potentially harm any rivals producing similar software to its medicine optimisation and population health management products by limiting their access to patient records held within the EMIS system.  However, the CMA's in-depth investigation, which was overseen by an independent panel, found that the merger did not raise competition concerns in either of these areas.  Kirstin Baker, chair of the independent inquiry group carrying out the investigation, said: 'The NHS increasingly relies on digital technology and data analytics to support the delivery of high-quality healthcare. So, it is important to ensure that, as the main customer of these services, the NHS continues to have access to the options and innovations that new and developing technology can bring.  'Following a thorough investigation, careful consideration of a broad range of evidence and consultation with a variety of stakeholders, we are satisfied that this deal will not reduce competition or mean that the NHS and its patients lose out.'  **Delivery Plan for Recovering Access to Primary Care: update on cloud-based telephony.**  Support for eligible Practices to transition from analogue (PSTN reliant) telephony systems to cloud-based telephony (CBT) solutions is moving at pace. Practices moving to CBT will be able to realise the associated benefits for both patients and front-line teams in managing demand ahead of winter. Practices making the switch are supported by the NHSE National Commercial and Procurement HUB to move smoothly through the process and go live with a CBT solution.  The process can take place within 8 weeks if all required activities can be completed in a timely fashion.  The Review Body on Doctors’ and Dentists’ Remuneration (DDRB) recommended that **salaried General Practice staff receive a 6% pay rise in 2023/24**. Following the acceptance of the recommendation by Government, the GP Contract has now been uplifted to provide funding for all non-Additional Roles Reimbursement Staff (ARRS) i.e. salaried general practice staff, including salaried GPs, to receive the pay rise.  The reimbursable maxima for ARRS staff were uplifted earlier in the year. The uplift is backdated to April 2023, with April to September arrears payments being made in November - and practices should now pass this on to all salaried general practice staff as soon as possible.  **Resources available: Ensuring practices offer three routes to requesting care.**  Practices are encouraged to ensure patients can request care in three ways:   1. By phone 2. In person 3. Using online forms through Practice websites (previously known as ‘online consultation requests’).   Availability of all three routes supports inclusivity, as some patients may find it difficult using online forms and prefer to be able to phone or visit |