



eBulletin Issue 150 May 2020

1. Sympathy messages for Edith Todd

Edith's family and N.A.P.P. were so grateful to the many of you who sent messages of sympathy following Edith's death in February. Your messages were sent on and were greatly valued, and have given much comfort to her family.

2. Holding virtual PPG meetings

During these uniquely challenging times, many PPGs are successfully holding virtual PPG meetings. However, for some, organising and a virtual call is rather daunting. N.A.P.P. can't offer training, but there is a good selection of free video tutorials available on offer, showing specific functionality to help you hold meetings. We've put some links to some on our website, but please be aware, not all workplaces allow the use of apps that you might use in a home environment.

3. GP Practices suspending contact with their PPG

N.A.P.P. has recently been contacted by several PPGs concerned that their GP Practice has suspended contact with them following a letter sent to all GPs on 14 April ([C0264-GP-preparedness-letter-14-April-2020.pdf](#)).

The specific section that concerned some of our members was this:

"Engagement with and review of feedback from Patient Participation Groups (PPG) - Practices can suspend engaging with and / or reviewing feedback from their PPG and may pause implementing any improvements previously agreed between the practice and the PPG unless, in the contractor's opinion, those are clinically necessary. Consideration should also be given to stopping any similar local activity that might involve gatherings of potentially vulnerable patients".

N.A.P.P. believes that a complete cessation of engagement is not in anyone's interest and we sincerely hope that the guidance is being aimed primarily at reducing physical meetings. We would like to make it clear that we endorse the view that all PPGs should be encouraged to hold virtual meetings during Covid19 lock-down thus keeping in safe contact with their members some of whom may be lonely and vulnerable. We encourage all PPGs to keep in touch with their practice, and where appropriate reassure them that your meetings can continue to add value via this safe and accepted method of communication.

N.A.P.P. are looking into this further and will be encouraging the development of clearer guidance, particularly given the support that several PPGs are providing to their practices during the current crisis.

- 4. GP data to support coronavirus response**

NHS Digital is supporting GPs by putting in place a central service to collect and disseminate data from General Practice to support vital planning and research, as part of the coronavirus response. More [here](#)
- 5. New N.A.P.P. Trustees Sought**

N.A.P.P is looking for new Trustees from England, Scotland Wales and Northern Ireland. This is an exciting opportunity to help represent the voice of patients through patient participation groups at a national level and to influence the quality of and standards in healthcare.

Trustees provide strategic leadership to this UK-wide charity and will share a strong commitment to improving both the quality of healthcare and promoting the role of the active patient.

Trustees play a key role in supporting the charity and will require energy and enthusiasm to discharge their responsibilities and represent the charity.

For more information go to <https://www.napp.org.uk/recruitment.html> or email recruitment@napp.org.uk
- 6. Art Competition**

The details of an exciting competition will shortly be emailed to you outlining a children's art competition. The competition will be open to children living in the UK aged between 5 and 11 years old. We hope to produce a kitchen calendar for sale in time for Christmas, with details of some of the different roles done within a primary care setting on the back of each month. Details of the competition, prizes and deadline will come out to you on a separate email in the near future.
- 7. Government begins large scale study of coronavirus immunity**

Up to 20,000 people are being asked to take part in a new government-funded study to further track the extent of the coronavirus spread across England, Scotland and Wales. More info [here](#)
- 8. Coronavirus (COVID-19): health and wellbeing of the adult social care workforce**

This guidance is for anyone who works in adult social care. It provides advice on how you can manage your personal mental health or the wellbeing of their staff in the current circumstances. More info [here](#)
- 9. Wales' emergency departments are still open and there for those in urgent need**

The number of people attending emergency departments in Wales has fallen by up to 50% since the start of the coronavirus pandemic. Chief executive of NHS Wales, Dr Andrew Goodall, has emphasised that emergency health services continue to be open for all those who need urgent care. More [here](#)
- 10. NHS Roadmap to Safely Bring Back Routine Operations in England**

Health leaders have today set out a series of measures to help local hospitals plan to increase routine operations and treatment, while keeping the necessary capacity and capability to treat future coronavirus patients. Over the coming weeks patients who need important planned procedures – including surgery – will begin to be scheduled for that care,

with specialists prioritising those with the most urgent clinical need. More info [here](#)

11. Anyone in UK with Coronavirus symptoms now eligible for tests

The government has announced that anyone in the UK with symptoms of coronavirus is now eligible to book a test, ahead of the rollout of the test and trace service. More [here](#)

12. NICE publishes rapid COVID-19 guidelines on chronic kidney disease and interstitial lung disease

NICE has published two new rapid COVID-19 guidelines. More [here](#)

13. Coronavirus (COVID-19): support for care homes in England

The government has announced a new care homes support package backed by a £600 million adult social care infection control fund. More [here](#)

14. PCN DES deadline approaches (England)

The network contract direct enhanced service (DES) underpins the role of PCNs in empowering general practice within the wider NHS and improving the range and effectiveness of primary care services. More [here](#)

15. Key worker guidance and family support package

Key worker parents and carers may be facing the pressure of having difficult conversations with their children and families on their role as a key worker, and how this may impact on the safety and dynamics of their family. More [here](#)

16. Sending the N.A.P.P. eBulletins on to your PPG members

Please accept our apologies for those of you who have found the new email format awkward to forward on. Due to the death of our colleague, we have had to temporarily change how we send these out. However, we are currently exploring a new community software platform, which we hope to give you an update on soon, which will make communications like this much easier, we hope.

In the meantime, all this year's eBulletins can be downloaded in PDF form, from the NAPP website [here](#). You can also access the 3 years before that [here](#).