MINI BULLETIN – 13 January 2023

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| GPs have warned that patients are being **inappropriately discharged** too early as the NHS seeks to free up hospital beds and relieve pressure on overstretched emergency services.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

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**CQC inspections of GP practices** will only go ahead where the watchdog believes there is a 'risk of harm' to patients after the watchdog cut back planned visits for the rest of winter.

On 10 January, the Government announced its decision to extend the central, **free provision of Covid PPE to the health and care sector**, by up to one year to March 2024 or until stocks are depleted (whichever is sooner).  The scheme will provide protection for frontline staff against Covid as part of the Government’s Living with Covid strategy. DHSC will publish details about stock-out dates by PPE category by April 2023.

As we start 2023, it is timely to remember the benefits of continuing to provide AHCs [annual health checks] for **people with a learning disability,** particularly at this time of year. This opportunity enables those most vulnerable in our communities to be supported with reasonable adjustments and be seen by primary care teams, to have their blood pressure and basic checks done, to review medicines and to talk about the things that may be worrying them.

The recorded consultation assessment (RCA) adopted during the COVID-19 Pandemic will be replaced by a **new GP exam** from November 2023.