MINI BULLETIN – 15 MARCH 2024

Just two in five GP **Registrars plan to work in UK General Practice** once they complete training, a devastating BMA poll reveals.

Patient-facing materials have now been produced to promote the benefits of **patient choice.** Patients have a legal right to choose which Hospital they are referred to for their first outpatient appointment when they are being referred for treatment by a healthcare professional.

From 1 April, [the **Lateral Flow Device (LFD)** tests supply service for patients potentially eligible for COVID-19 treatments](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fprimarycarebulletin.createsend7.com%2Ft%2Fd-l-efjkuk-jlddojhjt-u%2F&data=05%7C02%7C%7C30bfe991147743f2d0dd08dc44e36fec%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638460990820062105%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=dujA338Ue3YHgPK8h6ejFYkd0Ab3nOV7%2Fza7LyB322Y%3D&reserved=0) has been updated to include:

* People aged 85 years and over.
* People with end-stage heart failure who have a long-term ventricular assistance device.
* People on the organ transplant waiting list.
* People aged 70 years and over, or who have a BMI of 35 kg/m2 or more, diabetes or heart failure, and: − are resident in a care home, or − are already hospitalised.

[Eligible patients](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fprimarycarebulletin.createsend7.com%2Ft%2Fd-l-efjkuk-jlddojhjt-o%2F&data=05%7C02%7C%7C30bfe991147743f2d0dd08dc44e36fec%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638460990820072678%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=CKpfmIDDfDvNUJpVZxDbOlCcvPUL2D1koQrBCBoJkDg%3D&reserved=0) can obtain a free box of five LFD tests from Community Pharmacy.

A positive LFD result may help to determine whether the patient is referred to a COVID-19 treatment service.

**Over the counter items that should not be routinely prescribed**

This is general [guidance](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpcc-cic.us5.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Dfe51aa41404cfb64f7d454491%26id%3D7d94910171%26e%3D9be2819f9a&data=05%7C02%7C%7C30bfe991147743f2d0dd08dc44e36fec%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638460990820081109%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=UrLrZR4f6Dex%2FaHq34edOl2VhMJ4J2kUUSnmG4yicas%3D&reserved=0) issued under Section 14Z51 of the NHS Act 2006 to reduce unwarranted variation, improve patient outcomes and provide value for money for the NHS.

It provides recommendations for items that are available over the counter and should not be routinely prescribed in primary care.

[https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/policy-guidance-conditions-for-which-over-the-counter-items-should-not-be-routinely-prescribed-in-primary-care/](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.england.nhs.uk%2Fpublication%2Fpolicy-guidance-conditions-for-which-over-the-counter-items-should-not-be-routinely-prescribed-in-primary-care%2F&data=05%7C02%7C%7C30bfe991147743f2d0dd08dc44e36fec%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638460990820089005%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=8Pw5X26OetWbapySQ5eg0MpPZGNqIny%2FPYokirMy0ok%3D&reserved=0)