



Friday 16 December 2022

PROVIDER BULLETIN

SPECIAL EDITION

Following the publication of the usual Provider Bulletin yesterday, we have received a number of updates and important information we want to share with you. This special edition will also be available on the [Provider Zone](#).

UPDATE TO THE INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL AND OUTBREAK GUIDANCE

The [COVID-19 supplement](#) and [testing for adult social care services guidance](#) have been updated to reflect changes to mask and outbreak guidance.

The key changes include:

- Universal masking will cease and be replaced by a risk-based approach.
- Care homes will have greater autonomy to assess and manage COVID-19 outbreaks
- There is now a distinction between 'small care homes' and other care homes when it comes to outbreaks.

To read the COVID-19 supplement to the infection prevention and control resource for adult social care, please click [HERE](#).

Mike Horsley, Infection Prevention Control Manager says;

'Whilst we would support the updated guidance from 15 December in relation to the wearing of masks, I would suggest that care homes have a robust risk assessment in place for situations where they are not wearing masks, and that masks continue to be worn by staff who are coming into contact with any resident who has respiratory symptoms, not just those suspected or confirmed Covid 19. This is particularly important at the current time as we I know there are a couple of care homes in the area with suspected Influenza outbreaks.

In relation to the changes around outbreak management these are in line with what is already taking place locally and most providers are well versed in what restrictions to put in place immediately on suspicion of an outbreak. I would encourage all care homes to continue to contact the Infection Prevention team for advice and support as necessary.'

UPDATE TO THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE CODE OF PRACTICE

The Health and Social Care code of practice has been updated. This act sets out the overall framework for the regulation of health and adult social care activities by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), and applies to registered providers of all health and adult social care in England. There is a specific section for adult social care within the act which indicates how providers can meet the regulations. The IPC team will be happy to discuss this guidance further at a BCA meeting in the New Year if providers have any questions on how it relates to them.

To read the Health and Social Care Act 2008: Code of Practice on the Prevention and Control of Infections, please click [HERE](#).

SCABIES MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE

New guidance on the management of Scabies cases in care settings has been released. This national guidance has been developed to aid the public health management of scabies cases and the prevention and control of outbreaks, including recommendations for diagnosis, treatment and wider control measures.

To read the Scabies: Management Advice for Health Professionals, please click [HERE](#).

WEST YORKSHIRE PHARMACY BANK HOLIDAY ROTA - CHRISTMAS 2022 & NEW YEAR

To read the rota for pharmacy opening hours across West Yorkshire over the Christmas and new year bank holidays, please click [HERE](#).

DHSC ASC PROVISIONS UPDATE ON ENFORCEMENT

THIS IS AN UPDATE FROM DHSC ON THE ADULT SOCIAL CARE PROVIDER INFORMATION PROVISIONS AND THE GUIDANCE ON THE ENFORCEMENT PROCESS

Unfortunately, guidance on the enforcement process will no longer be published in the week commencing 19th December as we are making some further changes in light of feedback from members of the Provider Data Advisory Group (PDAG). We now expect this to be published early in the New Year.

As we have outlined in previous communications, financial penalties will normally be a last resort and the majority of the enforcement process will focus on what support we can give to help you meet the requirements of the Information Provisions.

CAPACITY TRACKER BULLETIN

To read the Capacity Tracker December Bulletin, please click [HERE](#).



DECEMBER NURSING STRIKES



WHEN?

- Thursday 15 December 2022
- Tuesday 20 December 2022

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Whilst the strikes may not impact providers directly, it is likely that some disruption will be felt at the BRI, AGH and St. Luke's which could impact different ways of working.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO EASE PRESSURE?

Please consider how you might prepare for the strikes when hospital colleagues operate on a reduced workforce:

- Please try and avoid hospital admissions during the nursing strikes. Where possible, consider other options such as Telemeds etc.
- The strikes are likely to cause significant delays for those going into A&E and/or in need of ambulance services. This should be taken into consideration when measuring the impact of sending an escort from your workforce with a service user.
- There may be a need for patients to be diverted to alternative hospitals.

HOW WILL THE LOCAL AUTHORITY SUPPORT YOU?

The Contract & Commissioning Team at Bradford Council will continue to update you of any major updates published by the Royal College of Nurses as they are released.

Please also ensure you are registered with the Bradford Care Association and included in their Provider WhatsApp Group for additional support.

If you encounter challenges and require the advice of the Local Authority advice you can contact the commissioning team at commissioninginbox@bradford.gov.uk or on 01274 434500

WHERE CAN YOU ACCESS MORE INFORMATION?

The Royal College of Nursing have launched a strike hub on their website to help you stay informed. Visit their website at www.rcn.org.uk and visit their strike hub to register for updates:

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/Get-Involved/Campaign-with-us/Fair-Pay-for-Nursing/Strike-hub>



Homecare Association

Please read update from The Homecare Association below.

Further to our alert of 1 December concerning nurses' strikes, GMB have announced that industrial action by ambulance services will be taking place in England and Wales on 21 and 28 December. Our advice on the steps that providers may want to consider is as follows:

STAFFING

Providers need to expect that there will be delays in ambulance response times and this will mean some careworkers are required to stay with some individuals waiting for an ambulance. You should think about how you will be able to cover this, for example, will you have additional bank on call or will you seek support from the local authority on this? Consider contingencies where a careworker has to stay with someone waiting and have time critical calls highlighted.

It is likely to be a stretch on branches too - think about how careworkers will be able to report and ensure you have resources, for example, enough care coordinators.

CARE OF INDIVIDUALS

Careworkers should follow the directions of the 999 / 111 handler very specifically (you should encourage careworkers to write down the time the call was made, who they spoke to and the instructions given).

We would also encourage careworkers to be upfront with call handlers as to what they don't know and be clear that they are not medically qualified.

Careworkers should not do anything they are not confident doing.

Encourage careworkers to ring 999 / 111 if there are any changes or anything making them uncertain (again document this).

You need to have a clear process for keeping families updated.

Also, have a very clear process for leaving service users who are waiting for an ambulance – preferably only if a family member is there (or clear guidance from a medical professional that this is okay, with this documented). You should not leave anyone who may have hit their head.

Branches should be logging long waiting times and regularly updating on duty social workers.

Please continue on the next page

INSURANCE ADVICE

We have also asked Towergate Insurance Brokers for their advice on the insurance implications.

Where a person is injured or sick, and waiting for an ambulance, the careworker should act according to normal policies and procedures. It would be for the organisation to decide what action they could/could not take if someone is on the floor, possibly injured.

However, homecare providers' insurance cover does not exclude having to act in an emergency situation. For example, no insurer would criticise someone for entering a burning building to save a child's life, to use an extreme example.

But members should speak to their own insurance broker about what they are planning to do, so that their potential action is disclosed and the risk accepted by the insurer.

FURTHER ADVICE

If we are able to obtain further advice for members, we will pass it on. In the meantime, we would welcome feedback and concerns from members. Please email policy@homecareassociation.org.uk.

DISCLAIMER

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this alert, it is a summary of some of the key points that members may want to consider, rather than a definitive statement of the law; advice should be taken before action is implemented or refrained from in specific cases. No responsibility can be accepted for action taken or refrained from solely by reference to the contents of this alert.

Policy, Practice and Innovation Team

The Homecare Association is the UK's membership body for homecare providers.

[**JOIN HERE.**](#)

THE LOCALA COMMUNITY FUND 2022/23 IS NOW OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS!

Every year, The Locala Community Fund donates at least £10,000 to community, third sector and charity organisations in Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Stockport and Tameside who apply for up to £1500 to support their projects. If you know of any groups in the five areas we work in who could benefit from a Community Fund grant then let them know that applications are now open. More information and the application form can be found here: <https://www.locala.org.uk/get-involved/community-fund>

Please note submissions to the Community Fund will close on 27 January 2023 at 5pm.

In January 2022, The Locala Community Fund donated over £43,000 to 30 community groups.