

From: Barnabas PPG <barnabas.ppg@gmail.com>
Sent: 02 June 2021 12:27
To: Barnabas PPG
Subject: IMPORTANT INFORMATION. Barnabas PPG Monthly Bulletin, June
Attachments: Annual_Report_2021.pdf; PPG_Minutes_20210519.pdf; PPG_Activity Plan 2021-23.pdf; napp_ebulletin_145.pdf; In_Touch_116.pdf

To All Barnabas PPG Members ...

[Printed copies to those PPG members without email]

[If you can't read any of the attached documents, or want printed copies of anything mentioned, please contact me and I'll try to send you a copy.]

Welcome to the June bulletin for Barnabas PPG members. **This month's bulletin contains some important information, and you may wish to take action.**

IMPORTANT : Your Health Data

Some years ago, patient power saw the NHS's Care.data scheme scrapped over confidentiality concerns and a lack of communication. But they've not learnt and this now appears to be being sneaked in via a badly publicised backdoor. This is NOT about sharing your data with clinical specialists *etc.* as part of your medical care. It is about using data for research and planning purposes, possibly by outside organisations for financial gain..

According to reports in the *Guardian* (<https://www.theguardian.com/.../gps-warn-plans-share...>) and the *Financial Times* (<https://www.ft.com/.../9fee812f-6975-49ce-915c-aeb25d3dd748>) patients have until 23 June to register with their GP to OPT OUT of having their data collected. Collection of pseudonymised** (but not anonymised) data starts on 1 July.
[** This means that if necessary NHS Digital can reconstruct the data to identify you; but subject to what rules we don't know.]

I've been grubbing around NHS websites, and these reports look pretty accurate. There's more, but rather vague, information at <https://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters/> and in the links in the *FT* article -- but you need to know where to look to find it!

The critical piece of explanation from the NHS websites is:

This data will be shared from 1 July 2021. Data may be shared from the GP medical records about:

- any living patient registered at a GP practice in England when the collection started - this includes children and adults
- any patient who died after 1 July 2021, and was previously registered at a GP practice in England when the data collection started

NHS Digital will not collect patients' names or addresses. Any other data that could directly identify patients (such as NHS Number, date of birth, full postcode) is replaced with unique codes which are produced by de-identification software before the data is shared with NHS Digital.

This process is called pseudonymisation and means that patients will not be identified directly in the data. NHS Digital will be able to use the software to convert the unique codes back to data that could directly identify patients in certain circumstances, and where there is a valid legal reason.

You can download the Opt-out Form at <https://nhs-prod.global.ssl.fastly.net/.../type-1-opt-out...>

Now personally I don't greatly care what of my data is collected; much of it is already known because, for example, I've needed to tell my insurance company; and those who know me will know I'm happy discussing things medical. However some of you will mind, and may wish to opt out.

Coronavirus

There's not a huge amount of helpful Covid-related news this month, although the so-called "Indian variant" is causing concern: it appears to be up to 50% more easily transmitted than the prevailing "Kent variant" and is causing the majority of infections

especially in hotspots around the country. Covid cases are also increasing from a low level, apparently due to the "Indian variant" and scientists are warning that this looks like the start of another wave if cases (although we won't really know for a couple of weeks) which could scupper the government's plans for removal of all restrictions on 21 June.

In good news, the UK has just recorded the first day with zero Covid-related deaths since the end of July last year.

You can find the latest restrictions, what you can and can't do, at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do>.

PPG News

AGM minutes

The minutes of the AGM on 19 May are attached, along with the Annual Report and the plan for PPG activity over the next two years (Covid and volunteers permitting).

IMPORTANT. PPG Meeting Dates.

You will see that the AGM discussed the possibility of holding the formal PPG meetings at a different time, or day. As a result of various discussions it has been decided that meetings will be on Wednesday at 0900hrs. The remaining meetings for this year are therefore:

- Wednesday 21 July,
0900. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88054343808?pwd=ZlUrYks0M1JkQmhmbIZ4QjUyZHhpdz09>. Meeting ID: 880 5434 3808 Passcode: 928186
- Wednesday 15 September,
0900. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84905466669?pwd=cENHMUorM1RRMmllbzN6dE01TEFIQT09>. Meeting ID: 849 0546 6669 Passcode: 114620
- Wednesday 17 November,
0900. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84423998662?pwd=cGxhFNG5Na1dLM2JicDhEdjI0eU96dz09>. Meeting ID: 844 2399 8662 Passcode: 914506

Our informal video call dates remain unaltered. The next two calls are:

- Monday 14 June, 1100
- Friday 25 June, 1500

Dial-in information: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7279594414?pwd=VmYwODdoWGg2eTFvTlVjVlZyRmhSQT09>. Meeting ID: 727 959 4414. Passcode: 149417

2021-23 plans

You will see from the plans that there are a number of things we want to do to increase both the PPG's impact: meaningfulness to our patients and engagement with the Practice. One of the activities is to look at, and possibly change, our branding. This is because other PPGs around the country have found that "Patient Participation" doesn't mean a lot to many patients and they're better with a more meaningful name which describes the group's activity. I am looking at the possibilities and options for Barnabas PPG, however I am not an expert on branding *etc.* – so if anyone has skills in branding and could help, please get in touch. Once the branding is decided, many of the other activities can be attacked.

Practice News

Nothing new this month.

Local Healthcare News

Nothing new this month.

General NHS News

Increasing Patient Numbers

There was a BBC report a few days ago saying that rising patient numbers threaten to overwhelm GPs. As so often the headline reporting is misleading. In fact the number of appointments made has declined about 10% (or 31 million) in the last year, while the number of GPs has effectively remained stable. The problem seems to be a combination of patients failing to get through on the phone, so when they do get an appointment their cases are more complex, and that when GPs do need to see a patient face-to-face this takes additional time due to the Covid infection control requirements. So it doesn't seem to be the reported

“tsunami” of patients, but an (understandable) infrastructure problem – although that doesn’t make it any easier for the patients! Read the BBC report at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-57229848>.

Remote Consultations

The Royal College of GPs (RCGP) has a report out looking at the future of remote consultations and triage. We know that many patients dislike phone consultations, contacting the surgery online (using eConsult) or looking up their test results online, and prefer to see a doctor face-to-face; and indeed there are benefits in this for the GP. Nevertheless it is clear that remote triage and consultation are here to stay, however the RCGP is clear that more work needs to be done to make the most effective (and acceptable) use of the available technology. Download the full report at <https://www.rcgp.org.uk/-/media/Files/Policy/future-role-of-remote-consultations-patient-triage.ashx> (PDF).

Worrying Survey (possibly too much information)

The media recently reported the results of a small survey which found that many people (not most, as reported) in this country cannot correctly name all parts of the vulva (external female genitals). Men and women appear equally confused. This says worrying things about our sexual health as well as being an indictment of sexual educations (both at home and in schools). Read the *Guardian* report at <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2021/may/30/most-britons-cannot-name-parts-vulva-survey>.

Newsletters

Finally, as always, the newsletters recently received which may be of interest.

- NAPP eBulletin #145. PDG attached. This contains links to quite a few useful and interesting items.
- NHS In Touch #116. PDF attached.

That’s all for this month. Stay safe and enjoy the sunshine!

Keith

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