

Keith Marshall

From: Barnabas Patient Voices <keith@barnabasvoices.org.uk>
Sent: 01 August 2022 17:27
To: Barnabas Patient Voices
Subject: Barnabas Patient Voices Monthly Update, August
Attachments: In_Touch_130.pdf; CQC_202207.pdf; BPV_Minutes_20220720.pdf

To All [Barnabas Patient Voices](#) Members ...
[Printed copies to those members without email]
[A copy will also be posted on our Facebook group and website]

[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 August update for [Barnabas Patient Voices](#) members.

Coronavirus

BA.5 Wave has Peaked

The Zoe Health Study are now reporting that the latest (BA.5) wave of infections peaked about 2 weeks ago and new infections are down to around 176,000 per day. However there are still 3.5 million people currently infected; that's an average of 1 in 19 people across the country.

Stay Vigilant

Nevertheless we cannot afford to relax. There's a new variant BA.2.75 which is causing concern as it contains a large number of additional mutations. Although the early data suggests it may not be as infectious as BA.5, the jury is still out. There's a bit more very early information at <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jul/12/centaurus-virologists-express-concern-at-new-covid-subvariant-omicron>.

We need to not only remain vigilant but to prepare now for the next wave; see <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/jul/22/covid-wave-prepare-new-variants-nhs-hospital-admissions-england>. Independent SAGE have used a seven point plan to suppress Covid infections and reduce disruption: <https://www.bmj.com/content/378/bmj.o1793>. To go along with this there is an animated video on YouTube which explains why, one year on from "Freedom Day", "Living with Covid" doesn't work: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgJ1LBG0TIU>

Autumn Boosters

Finally the government have announced that there will be Covid booster vaccinations of all over-50s, and others are at risk, this autumn. Free flu vaccination will also be available to everyone over 50 and school years 7, 8 & 9 – but only once all the over-65s, younger children, and the most vulnerable, have been invited. More details at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/over-50s-to-be-offered-covid-19-booster-and-flu-jab-this-autumn>.

Monkeypox

Monkeypox has not gone away, and there continue to be reports of new cases across the globe. As of a couple of days ago there were around 23,000 cases outside the disease's normal range with around 2500 in the UK. The UK cases are predominantly in London, and the NHS has announced an acceleration of the vaccine rollout to high risk groups in the capital. More at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2022/07/accelerated-monkeypox-vaccination-rollout-in-london-as-ukhsa-secure-more-vaccines/>.

Barnabas Patient Voices News

Meeting, 20 July

It was good to welcome two new members to our July meeting.

The meeting minutes are attached; they include a summary of Dr Carey's talk about End of Life Care.

Next Full Meeting

Our next full meeting is on Wednesday 21 September, 13:30 on Zoom.

As members have been requesting, we hope to have Nurse Henny to talk to us about Respiratory Conditions.

Zoom link, full agenda etc. in my September update.

Please put the date in your diary.

I am continuing to keep the possibility of resuming "in person" meetings under review; I intend that we will resume meeting in person as soon as it feels safe and a suitable venue is identified.

Informal Calls

We are continuing with our monthly, short, informal calls. The next two are on Wednesday 7 September at 16:00 and Thursday 6 October at 18:00.

The Zoom link for these calls is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7279594414?pwd=VmYwODdoWGg2eTFvTlVjVlZyRmhSQT09>.

Please do drop in for a chat and the latest information.

Practice News

Extended Access

From October, all GP Primary Care Networks (PCN, the local grouping) are being required to provide access to GP appointments outside their normal hours. The number of hours will depend on the total number of patients in the PCN. For our Northolt, Greenford, Perivale (NGP) PCN this means the 11 practices have to provide 65 hours of extended access appointments between them each week – that's the equivalent of two additional full time GPs!

In June the Practice surveyed 2000 randomly selected patients; we ran the survey for the Practice. The simple question was whether our patients would prefer appointments on Monday-Friday 07:30-08:00, Monday-Friday 18:30-20:00 or Saturday 09:00-17:00. 50% of those responding preferred Saturday, with another 33% preferring weekday evenings. As you'll see from the meeting minutes the Practice's current plan is to offer appointments every Monday and Tuesday evening, and on 7 Saturdays (as part of a rota) during the year. These appointments will need to be pre-booked or available to NHS 111.

Local Healthcare News

London Urgent Care Plan

The London Urgent Care Plan is an NHS service that enables every Londoner to have their care and support wishes digitally shared with healthcare professionals across the capital. A care plan (which can be accessed and implemented quickly if the patient is incapacitated) is initially built during a conversation between a doctor or nurse and the patient. The plan will be based on: what is important to the patient, their preferences for care, what support they may need, who else should be involved.

The London UCP, which has been live for less than a week, replaces the previous Coordinate My Care facility. Currently plans can be created only by the doctor or nurse, although there are plans for a portal to allow us patients to start our own plans. (And I'm on the list of volunteers who should be asked to look at designs etc.)

It remains to be seen how this will work on the ground. It is clear that the care plans will be visible (when required) by London clinicians, social care and emergency services. It is not clear if the plans will be visible to medics and emergency services outside London.

There's more information at <https://ucp.onelondon.online/about/> and <https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/patient-participation/patient-centred/planning/>.

General NHS & Healthcare News

Stop the Decline

The Patients' Association has issued a call to action to the Health Secretary to stop the decline in NHS services. Read their letter at <https://www.patients-association.org.uk/News/our-call-to-action-to-the-secretary-of-state>.

NHS App

All through the pandemic use of the NHS App has rapidly increased. In the year to May 2022 data from NHS Digital shows that using the app:

- Over 16 million repeat prescriptions were ordered
- 1.3 million GP appointments were booked
- GP records were viewed more than 90 million times
- 277,000 organ donation decisions were registered
- More than 22 million NHS App new sign-ups

NHS news item at <https://digital.nhs.uk/news/2022/over-16-million-repeat-prescriptions-ordered-via-nhs-app-in-a-year>.

UK Biobank

Set up about 20 years ago, UK Biobank is a huge biomedical database and research resource, containing in-depth genetic and health information from half a million UK participants (including me). Additional data is regularly added. It is globally accessible to approved researchers undertaking studies into common, and life-threatening diseases. As such has contributed to a number of medical developments. Nonetheless, it appears many GPs are not allowing their patient data to be shared with UK Biobank. Report at <https://rorycellanjones.substack.com/p/uk-biobank-why-wont-gps-share-data>.

Better Access to NHS Dental Services

Patients will benefit from improved access to dental care under changes announced by NHS England. The reforms will see NHS dentists paid more for treating more complex cases. Improved access is being targeted as all NHS dentists are required to keep their entry on the NHS website up to date. More at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2022/07/better-access-to-nhs-dental-services-under-new-reforms/>. [Thanks to Ewa Siwiec for the pointer to this]

Newsletters

Just two potentially interesting newsletters this month:

- NHS In Touch, issue 130 – copy attached
 - CQC Newsletter – copy attached
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That's all for now – enjoy the summer weather, and stay safe!

Keith

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