

**Sent via email:**To all GP Practices  
GP Out of Hours Providers

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[www.hscboard.hscni.net](http://www.hscboard.hscni.net)

24 December 2021

Dear Colleagues,

**Re: nMabs community roll out**

I have written to you separately concerning the establishment of Trust-provided, Outpatient COVID-19 Treatment Services (OCTs) to facilitate the provision of nMABs to suitable patients.

Regarding the identification of potentially eligible patients, a comprehensive range of search parameters have been developed which are being used in conjunction with relevant hospital and regional IT systems.

As we know, GPIIP represents an exceptionally rich data source of clinical information and the establishment of GPIIP was, from the outset, designed to improve direct patient care. The request to use GPIIP for this purpose has been carefully reviewed and deemed to be a valid use of GPIIP for the following reasons

1. Use of GPIIP will enable the identification of the eligible patient cohort, ensuring that these patients, who are at high risk of hospitalisation and death from Covid, have the opportunity to receive this potentially life-saving therapeutic intervention.
2. The use of GPIIP to identify this cohort enables these patients, upon testing positive for Covid-19, to be directed to secondary care for clinical assessment and treatment in a clinical setting.
3. The alternative to the use of GPIIP would place significant burden on primary care to either generate and supply details of the patient cohort or to assess and refer all Covid-19 positive patients within practice.

In an attempt to reduce workload on an already strained primary care setting, the GP Editorial Board has considered and agreed that it is an appropriate use of GPIIP to identify this cohort. In order to ensure that we maintain the high standards of information governance, data protection and patient privacy that are so integral to GPIIP, the following is being taken forward:

1. All data will remain within the GPIIP platform infrastructure at all times and be controlled and processed in the same manner as the GPIIP data, with the same level of security
2. Dr Margaret O'Brien has agreed to be the data controller for the eligible patient cohort database to ensure that we can stand over this.
3. A full DPIA is being developed and a data sharing agreement put in place with the trusts to enable them to receive details *only* of those patients who have been identified and then tested positive in order that they can be clinically assessed and therapy can be administered if suitable and the patient consents.
4. The Privacy Advisory Committee has been consulted and are content with the approach being taken.
5. An addendum to the DAA and Privacy Notice will be supplied around purpose and agreement that this is for direct care purposes.
6. The privacy notice that applies to Covid testing is being updated to reflect this new use of existing data.

### **Next steps and actions:**

#### **GPIIP Practices**

For those GP practices that are signed up to GPIIP, please note **no further action is required**. The datasets will be queried and when one of your patients is found to be eligible and contracts Covid 19, they will be contacted by secondary care to undertake a clinical assessment and, where appropriate, treatment will be scheduled. Trusts will provide practices with information on treatments provided to patients.

#### **Non-GPIIP Practices**

Clearly, it is vitally important that our entire patient population have equal access to this very beneficial therapeutic and with the advent of the Omicron variant, this is more critical than ever. For those GP practices that are not signed up to GPIIP. It will be necessary for you to supply details of your patients that fall into the eligibility cohort. Reinstated QOF Records & Systems indicator, RS005, requires GP Practices to participate in the GPIIP platform and work with the HSCB on data quality initiatives. This initiative meets that definition.

By clicking on the Excel icon below, practices will find a list of relevant codes for the identification of patients.



Copy of Codes  
Used for MAB cohort

The results of this query should then be supplied, as per the data set below to BSO so that they may be added to the eligibility database:

- HCN number
- DoB
- Postcode
- Cohort
- Date applicable

You will note from the eligibility criteria that some of these patient groupings are temporally relevant. As such it will be necessary to supply this list on a weekly basis to ensure that the eligibility database is complete and up to date and that all patients have equal access to the therapy. Further information on arrangements for submission of this data set will follow.

We appreciate the support of all practices in the delivery of this vital service.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Louise McMahon', written in a cursive style.

**Louise McMahon**  
**Director of Integrated Care**