



# Leylands Medical Centre

## Monthly Roundup

October 2025

Your Monthly Catch-Up on What's Happening in Primary Care

### New and updated guidance

- **NICE NG250 – Pneumonia:** replaces earlier CAP/HAP guidance; updates antibiotic courses and introduces steroid use in hospital for severe community-acquired pneumonia  
[Overview](#) | [Pneumonia: diagnosis and management](#) | [Guidance](#) | [NICE](#)
  - **NICE NG106 – Heart failure:** includes new recommendations for heart failure with preserved and mildly reduced ejection fraction; emphasises wider use of mineralocorticoid receptor antagonists and monitoring  
[Chronic heart failure in adults: diagnosis and management](#) | [Guidance](#) | [NICE](#)
  - **NICE CG185 – Bipolar disorder:** advises male patients taking valproate to use effective contraception during treatment and for three months after stopping.  
[Bipolar disorder: assessment and management](#) | [Guidance](#) | [NICE](#)
- NICE NG60 – HIV testing:** encourages opportunistic testing based on local prevalence data from UKHSA surveillance.  
[Increasing uptake among people who may have undiagnosed HIV](#) | [Guidance](#) | [NICE](#)
- **Jess's Rule (diagnostic safety):** after three visits for the same or worsening symptoms, GPs must review the diagnosis and consider further assessment or referral.  
[Jessica Brady's legacy inspires new life-saving GP safety rule - GOV.UK](#)

### ***Our Perspective:***

*Some good QIA's could come from these updates (hint to the trainees 😊), perhaps a 10min overview at PLT.*

*Drug formularies will be duly updated with latest guidance - make sure you're using them - click the 'meds' button in the toolbar on S1 💊*

*Jess's Rule - this is nothing new for Leylands and it's what we've been saying for years - discuss with a senior or bring to MDT using the button in 'comms'. If you're worried about something, then just ask someone senior 🙋*

# Immunisation & vaccines

- **Routine schedule update (Sept 2025):** the UKHSA schedule now reflects changes to the shingles programme and earlier childhood-schedule revisions (e.g., revised timings for several routine vaccinations and selective hepatitis B changes).  
[Complete routine immunisation schedule - GOV.UK](#)
- **Uncertain or imperfect immunisations? Here's what to do:** updated UKHSA flow-chart [Vaccination of individuals with uncertain or incomplete immunisation - GOV.UK](#)
- **Childhood schedule changes (from July 2025):** MenB is now given at 8 & 12 weeks, PCV at 16 weeks, Hib/MenC is removed at 12 months, and a new 18-month hexavalent + MMR2 appointment starts Jan 2026.  
[The complete routine immunisation schedule - GOV.UK](#)

## ***Our Perspective:***

*Charlotte and the team have this in hand 🤝*

*With the success of the MECC template, we're now working on improved proactive vaccination recalls and are in the process of taking up an NHSE funded offer of support to improve uptake of childhood vaccinations. MECC doesn't cover childhood imms, and as a practice low uptake is a major challenge for us so please have this discussion with new parents at every opportunity*

# Safety alerts & BNF changes

- **Paracetamol in pregnancy:** MHRA confirms paracetamol remains safe during pregnancy when taken at the lowest effective dose for the shortest duration.  
[reminder that taking paracetamol during pregnancy remains safe - GOV.UK](#)
- **GLP-1 receptor agonists & dual agonists:** possible risk of pulmonary aspiration under general anaesthesia or deep sedation; alert peri-operative teams and consider fasting protocols.  
[GLP-1 and dual GIP/GLP-1 receptor agonists: potential risk of pulmonary aspiration during general anaesthesia or deep sedation - GOV.UK](#)
- **BNF – September 2025 update:** highlights include updated flu vaccine information, caution regarding Guillain–Barré syndrome with RSV vaccines, and refreshed valproate safety materials. See the official change log on the BNF site for full details.  
<https://bnf.nice.org.uk/about/changes/>

# Digital & political developments

- **Online access during core hours:** from 1 Oct 2025, GP practices must keep online consultation systems open from 8:00–18:30; phone and walk-in options remain.

### ***Our Perspective:***

*Sustainability is the key here. We cannot have an unlimited workload. We've made changes to PATCHS to divert emergency presentations to ED/999 and urgent presentations are diverted to call us instead. We've extended the hours OC's can be submitted to all day, but there is a safe ceiling in place to ensure patient safety and staff wellbeing. Watch this space for further developments. At the moment OC's are not being dealt with as efficiently as they could be and we might initiate a first pass triage to improve this.*

- **GP Connect & patient charter:** practices must enable read-only access for other providers and allow pharmacies to send consultation summaries; a patient charter will set expectations.

[NHS England » Changes to the GP Contract in 2025/26](#)

### ***Our Perspective:***

*Read only access is already on, but we're not activating write access until we have some assurances about the quality and ownership of the incoming data. We'll likely enable this soon which will mean comms from pharmacies landing in the record via tasks, but they will be reviewed first. My nightmare is lots of BP's landing in the record from pharmacies and wrecking our QoF! 🤔 Only the other day, we had notice that thousands of women who attended pharmacies for contraception were wrong coded as pregnant... 🧑*

- **Overdiagnosis review:** the government has commissioned a review into potential overdiagnosis of mental illness and neurodivergence.
- **National AI Commission:** aims to accelerate adoption of AI in healthcare, providing clarity on regulation and encouraging tools like ambient voice transcription and remote monitoring.

[New Commission to help accelerate NHS use of AI - GOV.UK](#)

### ***Our Perspective:***

*Clearly we're ahead of the game on this 🤖*