

## At a glance

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### DO NOT PRESCRIBE!

We have seen some cases where Gabapentin and other opioids have been initiated by a CAS clinician. Please be aware that NICE has published an update to [NG59 Low Back Pain and Sciatica](#).

The updated guideline advises healthcare professionals NOT to offer benzodiazepines, gabapentinoids or opioids for sciatica.

*The evidence showed that gabapentinoids did not improve sciatica symptoms, and oral corticosteroids did not improve pain or function, but may have an impact on quality of life. Both increased the risk of adverse events in the long-term. While there was no evidence of increased risk of adverse events associated with benzodiazepines, there was evidence of poorer response than placebo in terms of pain reduction. The committee considered:*

- *the evidence reviewed,*
- *knowledge of the potential longer-term harms, and*
- *the reclassification of gabapentin and pregabalin as [Schedule 3 controlled drugs \(April 2019 UK Government drug safety update\)](#) because of the evidence for risk of abuse and dependence of these drugs.*

*The committee agreed that although the evidence about lack of effectiveness was limited, the harms would outweigh the benefits for most people with sciatica and therefore agreed to recommend against the use of gabapentinoids, oral corticosteroids and benzodiazepines for sciatica.*

We will be monitoring this and feeding back to individual clinicians via Clinical Guardian.

### Wigan Services Update:

**Illness and Injury** increased to 2 slots every 30mins - 8am-10pm

**SDEC** - 9am – 7pm increased to 1 slot per hour

**Leigh WIC** – 9am – 6pm increased to 2 slots every 30mins

### Rochdale SDEC

Rochdale SDEC currently does not have an Adastra diary. Referrals are currently made via dedicated SPOA to speak to a clinician on **0300 303 5310: Option 1 for SDEC/Acute Medic Line and Option 2 rapid response/ Urgent care response team.**

### Stepping Hill UTC

We have seen a significant reduction in cases being sent to Urgent treatment centre at Stepping Hill. Please remember you can directly refer into Adastra diary. They are open 10am-10pm 7 days a week, including bank holidays.

### Stepping Hill Minor Injuries

From 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 CAS clinicians will be able to book into Minor injuries diary at Stepping hill. Please advise patients to book into ED reception as they will need to be booked in but they must state they have an arrival time for Minors.

**Please utilise these services as much as possible as they are great alternatives to ED.**

### DX 3333 Cases

DX333 calls are 111 online cases. Please note they have not received a verbal triage assessment and therefore the triage times cannot be changed in accordance with NWS OPEL levels. OPEL stands for Operational Pressures Escalation Levels which help understand demand, activity and capacity within NWS. OPEL is also used in other urgent and emergency care settings such as Hospital Trusts. DX333 calls therefore must be prioritised wherever possible.

## Two Hour Urgent Community Response (UCR) Service



### Urgent Care Response (UCR) teams update:

Sadly, we have not seen an increase in UCR referrals from CAS despite the educational event and digitalisation of 2 of these services in GM in Bolton and Tameside and Glossop using the UEC button. For all other UCRs please contact the services via telephone for a verbal handover. We will be monitoring utilisation of these services as currently we are not referring many cases and there are suitable patients that could be seen by UCRs as they will provide a 2hr response.

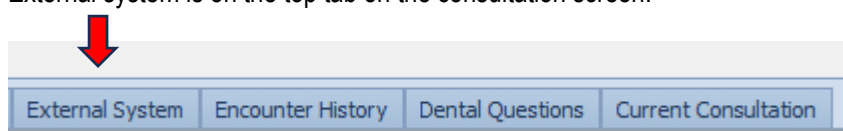
We are hopeful to have this function of sending direct digital referrals in more UCR teams but we need to evidence we are using them.

**Below is a list of the UCRs across Greater Manchester and their contact details and operating hours:**

**Stockport** 8am-10pm 7days a week 0161 204 4777  
**Trafford** 8am-9.30pm 0300 3230303 (option 3)  
**Central Manchester** 08:30am-8.30pm 0161 529 6220  
**South Manchester** 08:30-8.30pm 0300 303 9650  
**North Manchester** 08:30am-8.30pm 0161 667 3292  
**Salford** 08:00-7.30pm 0161 206 6666  
**Bury** 08:00-6.30pm 0161 253 6292 (accessible via UEC button)  
**Bolton** 0800am-8pm 0161 763 8538  
**Wigan** 08:00am-8pm 01942 481221  
**Tameside** 08:00-6pm 0161 922 4257 (accessible via UEC button)  
**Oldham** 08:00-6.30pm 0161 770 6771

### Mental Health cases

Please ensure you look at the external system for more information on MH cases sent from NWS 999. External system is on the top tab on the consultation screen.



This tab can have valuable information about the pathways assessment and answers the person has given as this may aid your clinical decision making. Have they expressed they are feeling suicidal, do they have a plan? etc.



## MERs

Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (also known as MERS or MERS-CoV) is a rare but severe respiratory illness. It can start with a fever and cough, which can develop into pneumonia and breathing difficulties. MERS was first identified in 2012 in the Middle East and is most common in that region. The risk of infection with MERS to people in the UK is very low.

### Symptoms of MERS

- fever
- cough
- difficulty breathing
- diarrhoea and vomiting

Consider MERs as a possible infection especially for those with the above symptoms returning from Hajj and Umrah. Please complete a risk assessment:

- Have they had direct contact with camels?
- Have they drunk camels milk or raw camel urine?
- Been in a health care setting and or been in close contact with someone who has a confirmed MERS-CoV infection?

Please follow the link below for more advice:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mers-cov-risk-assessment/phe-risk-assessment-of-mers-cov>



## SAFEGUARDING REFERRALS

It is the **responsibility of all clinicians who identify a safeguarding concern to make a referral to the local authority** where the person lives.

Different local authorities have different processes for making a safeguarding referral and often this can be found on the specific web sites of the relevant social care department.

If you are unsure of how to make a referral, please ring the local social care team (in or out of hours) to confirm the process. The **telephone numbers have now been added to the directory of services on Adastra.**

Make sure you have confirmed any email addresses prior to sending a patient's sensitive information.

## SAFEGUARDING CHANGES

We have reviewed current processes. With immediate effect clinicians should follow the employing Organisation's safeguarding procedures. If you work for more than one provider, please ensure you follow the safeguarding procedures for the organisation you are employed to work for on that day. For example, if you work for all three providers but are working for Mastercall for your CAS shift you should record your safeguarding concerns and actions taken on Ulysses.

We have made these changes to make recording of safeguarding concerns easier for clinicians and we hope you find this beneficial moving forward.



### **NEXT EDUCATIONAL EVENTS:**

#### **Paccs Drop in Sessions:**

**12<sup>th</sup> April 12pm-1pm via teams.** (please contact your training department for the link to this training)

**CAS Update: 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024 6.30pm-8pm via teams**

If you would like to attend this event, please contact your training department for the link.

#### **THE PUSH**

There was a recent documentary on Channel 4 called The Push. The documentary followed the family of Fawziyah Javed while they prepared for her husband's murder trial. Fawziyah was a successful lawyer and 17 weeks pregnant with her first child when she plummeted from the top of Arthur's Seat in Edinburgh. In her dying moments, Fawziyah reported to eye witnesses that her husband had pushed her off the summit.

Fawziyah's family were supported at the trial by a charity called Karma Nirvana. Themes of coercive control, domestic violence and honour based violence were evident throughout her marriage. GMUPCA have organised an educational event delivered by Karma Nirvana to empower colleagues to respond in the right way to victims of Honor based Violence and make a positive difference.

**The training is scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> May from 1-2pm via teams.**

Please contact the training department, [mahe.mastercalltraining@nhs.net](mailto:mahe.mastercalltraining@nhs.net) if you would like to attend.

We hope you have found this bulletin useful. If you have any suggestions for future topics for bulletins or training events, please contact Rachael Ingram [rachaelingram@nhs.net](mailto:rachaelingram@nhs.net)