

Dear Colleagues,

Re Diabetes Consultant Practice Visits

Consultant practice visits have previously been very well received. They provide an excellent opportunity for GPs and nurses to engage with the local diabetes consultants in promoting better diabetes care for the practice population, and the population of Herts Valleys as a whole.

We would like to encourage practice participation on an annual basis. The practice visit will consist of an overview of the latest practice demographics, case-finding, complications, Qof and National Diabetes Audit data and an opportunity to discuss the care of a number of complex patients, including those with an HbA1c of >85mmol/mol. We hope this will lead to the generation of ideas about how to improve the quality of diabetic care, the identification of learning needs and an opportunity to discuss how the specialist team can offer support. We hope that diabetes practice development plans will be created and that these will be reviewed at each annual visit. A session should be set aside for this visit, inclusive of preparation time.

Where possible, the same consultant shall provide continuity at these visits. It is important that the practice visits are not seen as an inspection exercise - consultants are there to provide specialist input, support, and to work more collaboratively with primary care colleagues.

Please find attached an updated practice visit questionnaire. It has been designed to promote practice engagement and provides a template for case discussion. With your permission, a copy of the completed questionnaire and practice development plans will be held centrally and used to inform discussion for future visits. Please could completed questionnaires be sent to Renate Scheffer at Renate.Scheffer@hertsvalleysccg.nhs.uk

To arrange a practice visit, please contact Shamaila Shabir at Shamaila.Shabir@hct.nhs.uk.

Best wishes

Dr Nicola Cowap (HVCCG & Watford locality, clinical lead)
Dr Vidya Kanthi (St Albans locality lead)
Dr Khalid Mirza (Dacorum locality lead)
Dr Alka Patel (Hertsmere locality lead)