



## Your Weekly Update from Simon de Lusignan, Director of RCGP RSC

### An Important Message From Our Director



*"We've broadened our sampling criteria, so we'll accept swabs from any patient of any age with an acute respiratory infection or who you suspect has COVID-19."*

Firstly, to all our sampling practices doing virology swabs and taking serology samples, I'd like to say thank you for what a fantastic job you do.

At present with low levels of background immunity following the pandemic, we're really wanting to find out if we have influenza circulating at this time of year. For this reason, I'm going to ask if you can help us and **really go for it** when swabbing people who might have an influenza-like-illness.

An ILI is an acute respiratory illness. It's associated with a measured or plausibly raised temperature over 38 degrees. It can affect all or part of the respiratory tract. It's often associated with systemic symptoms such as headache and myalgia where there isn't a more plausible diagnosis. So if you see a patient who fits that, please code as a problem 'ILI' Influenza-like-illness and please try and take a sample from as many of these patients as possible.

We've broadened our sampling criteria, so we'll accept swabs from any patient of any age with an acute respiratory infection or who you suspect has COVID-19.

Finally I'd like to say, sampling is a unique thing we do as the national primary care sentinel system, so thanks again for all your hard work.

*Simon de Lusignan*



The School of Health Sciences, University of Surrey is conducting a national survey to identify and prioritise a shortlist of service delivery challenges that require further research, as identified by the general practice workforce.

Survey results will be used to determine areas requiring further evidence and gaps in implementation of existing evidence. Study findings will then be submitted to NIHR research funding programmes and, if suitable, taken to their decision-making committees that prioritises areas of future research for funding

This study is led by Dr Ruth Abrams, Lecturer in Workforce, Organisation and Wellbeing research. The survey asks three key questions from a workforce perspective:

- (1) What is working well in general practice?
- (2) Where are the challenges?
- (3) What needs fixing?

Target Group: All staff (clinical and non-clinical) working in UK General Practice including reception staff.

Survey information and link: <https://rabrams0.wixsite.com/primarycare-research>

Deadline: Mon 3rd October 2022

Dr Abrams would be grateful if you could distribute this survey to all your staff members so that this study can establish key findings to support the general practice workforce.

## ClinT Of The Week

Remember, coding is caring! Please code a disease as a problem.



**Human metapneumovirus infection (disorder)**  
**SCTID: 1087141000119106**

1087141000119106 | Human metapneumovirus infection (disorder) |

Human metapneumovirus infection (disorder)  
Human metapneumovirus infection

## Publication Of The Week

**nature**

[Second-dose ChAdOx1 and BNT162b2 COVID-19 vaccines and thrombocytopenic, thromboembolic and hemorrhagic events in Scotland | Nature Communications](#)

We investigated thrombocytopenic, thromboembolic and hemorrhagic events following a second dose of ChAdOx1 and BNT162b2 using a self-controlled case series analysis.

We used a national prospective cohort with 2.0 million (m) adults vaccinated with two doses of ChAdOx or 1.6 m with BNT162b2.

To find out more, click the link above for the full publication.