

North East Locality Commissioning Meeting

Date of Meeting: 12.9.18				Paper No: 3		
Title of Paper: Influenza Vaccination Briefing for GP Practices 2018/2019 – No 1(03.09.18)						
Is this paper for	Discussion		Decision		Information	✓

Purpose of Paper:

As we go towards winter, and practices prepare for the influenza season, we felt it would be useful for practices to receive the paper below. It has also gone into the GP Bulletin 5.9.18.

Action Required:

Practices are asked to note the paper, which will be briefly discussed on 12.9.18, and note further updates will come out via the GP Bulletin.

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Influenza Vaccination Briefing for GP Practices 2018/2019 - No 1(03.09.18)

The last season's higher level of flu activity is an important reminder that flu can have a significant impact and is highly unpredictable. 2017/18 saw record flu vaccination levels, with nearly one and a half million more people getting the vaccination than the year before. We should strive to further improve vaccine uptake rates in all eligible cohorts next year.

Full guidance for the NHS England Annual National Flu Programme 2018/2019 issued in March 2018, covers details of the eligible groups for vaccination, the providers responsibilities, timing of the vaccination programme and guidance to improve vaccine uptake, and can be found at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/694779/Annual_national_flu_programme_2018-2019.pdf

Detailed planning information available on above guidance includes:

- Groups included in the national flu immunisation programme
- GP practice checklist
- National extension of flu programme to children
- Child eligibility for flu vaccine and type to offer
- Pregnant women
- Vaccine supply and ordering
- Data collection
- Contractual arrangements
- Communication

Flu Vaccine Special Edition update and posters to download from Public Health England are available at:

[Vaccine update: issue 284, August 2018 Flu special](#)

Eligibility for 2018-2019

In 2018/19 the one change in eligibility is the extension to an additional cohort of children, those in school year 5. Therefore, in 2018/19 the following are eligible for flu vaccination:

- all children aged two to nine (but not ten years or older) on 31 August 2018
- all primary school-aged children in former primary school pilot areas
- those aged six months to under 65 years in clinical risk groups
- pregnant women
- those aged 65 years and over
- those in long-stay residential care homes
- carers (Care Home staff eligibility agreed August 18)

Recommended vaccines

There are 2 types of vaccine available for 2018/19, the quadrivalent available in 2 forms.

- The adjuvanted trivalent vaccine (aTIV) for all 65s and over. NHS England has recommended that the adjuvanted trivalent influenza vaccine (aTIV) be made available to all those aged 65 and over in 2018/19. This is the most effective vaccine currently available for this group. This reflects current JCVI advice and Green Book guidance published in December 2017 by Public Health England (PHE). Note: JCVI considers aTIV to be more effective and cost-effective than the non adjuvanted vaccines currently in use in the elderly (including quadrivalent vaccine (QIV)).
- The quadrivalent vaccine (QIV) for 18 – under 65s at risk. NHS England has recommended that adults aged 18 to under 65 in clinical at-risk groups are offered the quadrivalent influenza vaccine (QIV) which protects against four strains of flu. This reflects current JCVI advice and Green Book guidance that was updated in October 2017 on the basis of cost-effectiveness data produced by PHE.
- The live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) used for the children's programme is also quadrivalent. We ask that increased effort is given to the vaccination of preschool children as uptake is not as high as in schools. The effectiveness of LAIV offered to children is good; furthermore children under the age of five years old have the highest rate of hospital admissions for flu of all age groups. Improving uptake in these children and children with an underlying clinical risk factor will provide individual protection as well as helping to protect the wider community.

Vaccination of Care Home residents

GPs are responsible for ensuring that people living in residential homes are immunised in exactly the same way as patients in their own home. However, this year we have commissioned District Nurses to support the primary care team by carrying out immunisation in residential homes for patients who are defined as housebound and therefore cannot get to the surgery or community flu clinics or pharmacies. Those in residential care who are not housebound will be invited in the usual way to flu clinics. The majority of our care homes are part of the GP Proactive Support to Care Homes service, which emphasises the need for GPs to ensure that all eligible patients are offered a flu jab.

Vaccination of Care Home staff

In August 2018 the service specification and PGD for pharmacy was released which allows pharmacies to vaccinate Social care and Hospice staff for free as an eligible group. GP Practices should ask managers of any care homes where they have patients if they are aware and actively promoting vaccination to their staff. Service Specification for Community Pharmacies can be found at:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/community-pharmacy-seasonal-influenza>

Monitoring and Communications

OCCG shall be monitoring the vaccine uptake by patient group and by GP Practice from Imform and will publish this on a fortnightly basis as regular GP Bulletin updates, together with any topical issues. Those GP practices that are requiring support to improve NHS England's recommended uptake shall be contacted to discuss ways to improve in order to achieve targets.

Summary table for Commissioning Arrangements

Cohort	Provider					Uptake ambition for 2018/19
	Primary Care	Pharmacy	Maternity Services	Community School Nursing Provider	Occupational Health	
People Aged 65 & Over	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	75%
Clinically at risk groups under 65	✓	✓ (aged 18 to 64)	✗	✗	✗	55%
Pregnant Women	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	55%
Carers	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	
Children Aged 2 & 3	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	40-65%
Children in Reception & School Years 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	40-65%
Frontline Healthcare staff	✓ (own practice staff)	✓ (Hospice & Social Care)	✗	✗	✓	75%