

## **Paper 5 – NELG 10.10.18**

### **Influenza Vaccination Briefing for GP Practices 2018/2019 - No 4 (01.10.18)**

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#### **1. Additional ordering of aTIV vaccines for over 65 year olds.**

If your practice needs to order additional aTIV vaccines for your over 65 years population, please refer to instructions below.

Background:

- Seqirus has sourced an additional 400,000 doses of aTIV.
- Of the 400,000 doses approx. 190,000 doses will be used to fulfil the orders of those practices and pharmacies on the Seqirus waiting list.
- Seqirus will be contacting the GP practices (and small proportion of other providers) on this list over the next few days by email with follow up telephone calls to process their orders email sent on 27.9.18).
- Discussion is underway between Seqirus and wholesalers - to investigate the option of using wholesalers to manage the smaller orders from independent pharmacy on the waiting list. The larger orders will be handled in the same way as general practices.
- The remaining aTIV – approx. 210,000 doses - will be available for order.
- Delivery is estimated to be in WB 22 October & WB 12 November.
- All orders will be split 50/50 between these two weeks.
- Price and terms and conditions are the same as previously offered to other GPs and pharmacies (price is dependent on volume).

Your existing arrangements with Seqirus remain, but if additional vaccines are required for this group, there is a deadline of 12th October, and I urge you to order urgently if required as a limited supply is available.



Seqirus order form



Seqirus Credit

201819\_UPDATE\_v1.Application Form 18\_:

#### **2. Cold Chain guidance refresher**

Vaccines should be stored in the original packaging at +2°C to +8°C and protected from light. All vaccines are sensitive to some extent to heat and cold. Heat speeds up the decline in potency of most vaccines, thus reducing their shelf life. Efficacy, safety and

quality may be adversely affected if vaccines are not stored at the temperatures specified in the license. Freezing may cause increased reactogenicity and loss of potency for some vaccines and can also cause hairline cracks in the container, leading to contamination of the contents.

Fluenz Tetra® may be left out of the refrigerator for a maximum period of 12 hours at a temperature not above 25°C as indicated in the SPC. If the vaccine has not been used after this 12 hour period, it should be disposed of.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/223753/Green\\_Book\\_Chapter\\_3\\_v3\\_0W.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/223753/Green_Book_Chapter_3_v3_0W.pdf)

### **3. Latex and the Flud vaccine.**

Flud® will be supplied to the UK market predominantly as a pre-filled syringe with a syringe tip cap. The manufacturer's SPC states that no natural rubber latex is detected in the syringe tip cap. The unattached needles supplied along with the pre-filled syringes do not contain latex: the needle hub and needle sheath are both polypropylene.

However, a small proportion of Flud® supplied in the UK will be presented with an attached needle. In this presentation alone, the needle sheath contains natural rubber latex. In theory, latex could be transferred from the needle sheath to the needle and then to the patient. However, as the latex-containing component (the needle sheath) is not in contact with the injection solution/suspension, the latex will not be leached from it. Furthermore, the needle sheath is made of Dry Natural Rubber (DNR) and there is considerable processing which removes latex during its manufacture. Contamination with latex proteins from this source are therefore deemed negligible by experts in the field.

As a precaution, the Flud® pre-filled syringe with attached needle presentation should not be used if an individual has a history of severe (i.e. anaphylactic) reaction to latex. However, Flud® presented as a pre-filled syringe presentation with unattached needle(s) is latex free and may be used for individuals with a latex allergy.

In accordance with Chapter 6 of the Green Book, for latex allergies other than anaphylactic reactions (e.g. a history of contact allergy to latex gloves), vaccines supplied in vials or syringes that contain latex can be administered (i.e. either Flud® presentation may be used).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/contraindications-and-special-considerations-the-green-book-chapter-6>

### **4. Vaccination for patients with Learning Disabilities.**

Practices are advised of the importance to ensure patients with learning disabilities are vaccinated. Patients with a learning disability are included in the eligibility for payment under this DES. PHE understand the difficulty with vaccinating this group with injectable vaccines. PHE advises that LAIV is not licensed for adults so practice should attempt to vaccinate using an injectable vaccine. Previously, it has been found that LAIV is easier to use in similar patients and is less distressing. However, in the event that an injectable vaccine is not appropriate, GP's can use their clinical discretion to use the LAIV vaccine off license.

Several studies, including numbers emerging from the current Learning Disabilities Mortality Review (LeDeR) Programme have shown that respiratory problems are a major cause of death of people with learning disabilities. Despite the fact that from 2014 people with learning disabilities were eligible to have a free flu vaccination there has not been an appreciable rise in the numbers receiving this.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccinations-for-people-with-learning-disabilities/flu-vaccinations-supporting-people-with-learning-disabilities>

## **5. Patients with an egg allergy**

Fluad® contains more than the recommended ovalbumin content for patients with egg allergy (each 0.5ml dose contains less than or equal to 0.2µg ovalbumin). Patients aged 65 years and over with an egg allergy should therefore be given QIV with an ovalbumin content less than 0.12 micrograms/ml (0.06 micrograms in a 0.5 ml dose).

The ovalbumin content of influenza vaccines for the 2018/19 flu season can be found in PHE's Influenza Vaccines for 2018/19.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/influenza-vaccine-ovalbumin-content>

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