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12 January 2021

Dear Richard

Administration of the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccination

Thank you for your letter of 7 January 2021. The Care Quality Commission (CQC) fully understands the issues in relation to the Covid vaccination process, including the national guidance from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) and the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) that both vaccines be deployed outside time frames covered by the initial approval from the MHRA. There are, of course, many examples of the appropriate use of medicines outside the licensed indications of medicines where this appropriately and effectively aligns with the best clinical interests of patients and, as a regulator, we understand the need to act in ways that aligns with these best interests.

Where appropriate, authoritative guidance is being followed in relation to Covid vaccination (either by following the original intervals or the longer subsequent recommendation made by the JCVI and the CMO) in order to act in the best interests of patients and the wider community this is considered to be entirely appropriate by the CQC.

I hope this helps to clarify the situation for you.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the significant efforts being made by GPs and their practice teams endeavouring both to play their part in the vaccination programme and also to continue to deliver primary care services to patients.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Benneyworth'.

Dr Rosie Benneyworth BM BS BMedSci MRCGP
Chief Inspector of Primary Medical Services and Integrated Care