

**Central Midlands (Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire)**

**Screening and Immunisation Team Update: Flu season special**

**W/C 27th August 2018**

**Please cascade to ALL staff, including GPs, Practice Nurses, Admin and Reception Staff**

**Immunisation Information: Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Campaign 2018/19**

This information is to assist you in the delivery of your seasonal flu campaign. It includes local information and signposts to national guidance - *which it does not replace*. We have decided to use our new bulletin format and focus upon changes and key information rather than summarising the nationally published letter - which, you will remember from previous years, makes for a very long “summary”! Your comments are welcome as always.

Each year more and more patients receive vaccination against flu and we would like to take this opportunity to, once again, thank practice staff for their hard work delivering the programmes in 2017/18. As you know, increasing uptake reduces clinic consultations, admissions to hospital and sickness absence from work and school. We have yet to receive confirmation but are hopeful that practices will once again receive weekly emails from ImmForm with a link allowing them to log-in and track their weekly progress against the national aspirations, which is an approach that we wish to encourage: <https://portal.immform.dh.gov.uk/>

**Changes to the Programme**

There are only two changes to this year’s programmes:

* Year 5 primary school children will be added to the programme in Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire

The attached information about the School Aged Immunisation Service (SAIS) provision in your county provides further details.

(Note: in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) the programme will include, as previously, Year 5 *and* Year 6 children.)

  

* There are specific vaccine recommendations for the adult risk groups.

The most clinically effective vaccines are adjuvanted trivalent influenza vaccine (aTIV - Fluad®) for everyone aged 65 and above, and QIV for adults aged under 65 but in a risk group. From a practice perspective, we recognise that this is a major change, that it has already raised many concerns and is likely to continue to cause difficulties throughout the coming flu season. Please refer to the attached *What flu vaccine to give (clinical effectiveness)* “poster” and see additional information below.



**Adjuvanted Trivalent Influenza Vaccine - aTIV (Fluad®)**

The NHS England document *Flu vaccination programme delivery guidance 2018-19*, which includes FAQs, has already been sent out to practices, and can be accessed here:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/flu-vaccination-programme-delivery-guidance-2018-19/>; the joint NHS England, BMA and PSNC letter that accompanied it is available:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/flu-vaccinations-for-2018-and-planning-flu-clinics-letter-from-david-geddes/>

In addition, for the first time this year, a comprehensive *Inactivated influenza vaccine: information for healthcare practitioners* document has been published by PHE, and we encourage you to read this and keep it to hand; it includes helpful FAQs, including further advice about aTIV: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inactivated-influenza-vaccine-information-for-healthcare-practitioners>

We are aware that a number of practices have either no or too few aTIV vaccines on order for the anticipated uptake in their over 65 population. The national team now have the information provided by practices via CCGs from the recent data collection exercise (thank you), however we have yet to hear from them regarding any possible mitigation for this situation. We will let you know the outcome as soon as we have anything concrete to share.

**Maternity and other secondary care services**

Maternity services

The following hospitals will provide an additional offer of vaccination to unvaccinated pregnant women when they attend for their scan(s). **This should not detract from GPs offering the vaccination, preferably as soon as pregnancy is confirmed.**

* University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust (Leicester Royal Infirmary and Leicester General Hospital)
* United Lincoln Hospitals NHS Trust ( Lincoln County Hospital and Boston Pilgrim Hospital)
* Kettering General Hospital NHS Trust

Renal dialysis patients

Patients with renal disease in Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire may be offered flu vaccination from the renal team while attending for dialysis**. This will be an additional opportunity for these patients in addition to the GP offer - general practice will still be able to vaccinate these groups.**

HIV patients

In Leicestershire, patients living with HIV who attend UHL may be offered flu vaccination if they attend for an appointment during flu season. **Again, this is an *additional opportunity* to try to address low uptake in this group.**

**Please note – the service specification for all these additional opportunities includes a requirement to inform the patient’s GP on the same or following working day, and the importance of this is reinforced. It remains a risk that patients are vaccinated twice and while this risk is acknowledged and of significance it is felt to be outweighed by the benefits of ensuring vaccination for vulnerable groups.**

**2 and 3 year olds**

The attached *2 and 3 year olds* “poster” details the DOB ranges. Last year’s uptake showed marked improvement and we have again commissioned the local child health records teams to send letters to parents of all 2 and 3 year olds. A copy of the wording is attached for your information. We will agree the timing of these letters with the local LMC’s and then inform practices of these dates; however, they are likely to be posted to parents in early October. **They are an addition to, not a replacement for, invitations from practices.**

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**Health and social care workforce**

The enhanced service for the seasonal influenza vaccination programme for health and social care workers 18/19 has now been published:

[Seasonal influenza vaccination programme for health and social care workers 2018/19](https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/gp-contract-2017-18-enhanced-service-specifications/)

We will also forward this to you under a separate email including a sign up process.

The PGD (see below) already includes provision for immunisation of this cohort. In addition to social care staff, those health and care workers offering direct patient care in the voluntary managed hospice sector are also included.

**Community pharmacies**

For the third year, community pharmacies will be offering flu immunisation to adults in risk groups, including those aged 65 and above. This year changes include vaccinating patients at home where they receive a request from the patient. As with people living in long stay residential accommodation, the pharmacy contractor must submit a completed form to the local NHS England team prior to undertaking the immunisation.

We realise that given current financial constraints, practices are increasingly reliant on the income generated by the flu immunisation programme. There have been concerns in the past that practices and pharmacies are directly competing for flu immunisations and that this could have a potentially destabilising effect financially for both parties. Flu immunisation uptake in Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire for 2017/18 was 72.5% for over 65s and 48.9% for under 65s at risk, both of which are below the national targets. These percentages show that there is still a great opportunity for everyone to increase the number of flu vaccinations delivered.

* Practices and pharmacies are subject to the same staggered delivery schedule with regard to aTIV.
* The service specification states that notification of vaccination is sent to the patient’s GP on the same day the vaccine is administered or on the following working day. This can be undertaken via post, hand delivery, fax, secure email or secure electronic data interchange.
* Practices are encouraged to sign-up to PharmOutcomes to facilitate timely data transfer from pharmacies; sign up by sending your practice’s name, code and an nhs.net email address to: [helpdesk@phpartnership.com](mailto:helpdesk@phpartnership.com).
* Pharmacies are signposting patients also due their shingles vaccination back to their practices, as part of their contracted community health promotion activity.
* Eligible health and social care workers will be included in the Community Pharmacy Advanced Service.

**Data collection**

Details about this year’s data collection schedule are yet to be released. They will be published on ImmForm: <https://portal.immform.dh.gov.uk/News.aspx>; <https://portal.immform.dh.gov.uk/DataCollections/DataCollections/Current-Surveys/Flu-Data-Collections/Home/Flu-Collections-Home.aspx> and we will notify practices when we have further information to share.

**Ordering of children’s flu vaccines**

These dates have yet to be announced. This information will be published in Vaccine Update (see below) and on the vaccine supply and news (link above) pages on the ImmForm website. We will also email practices.

**Vaccine Update – for Information**

National colleagues have advised that the anticipated publication of the flu special edition of Vaccine Update will be during the week commencing 20th August: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/vaccine-update#2018>.

**PGDs – for information and action**

Flu

Both the *LAIV* and *IM Inactivated influenza* vaccine PGDs are attached, and have been sent to the web team for publication on our web pages: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/mids-east/info-professionals/ll-immunisation/pgds/>

PPV

In other news…A new *PPV PGD* has also been published; it too is attached for your use and has been sent to the web team. The new version is finally in-line with the service specification allowing staff to vaccinate anyone who will turn 65 by the 31st of March, thus permitting them - if the practice prefers - to be vaccinated when attending for their flu vaccination rather than requiring a further appointment. Please replace the old style SIPGD013 with the attached version from 1st September 2018, from when it is valid.

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**Resources**

[*The national letter*](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/694779/Annual_national_flu_programme_2018-2019.pdf) (no.1) has more detail, including this year’s aspirations, and reminds providers of the requirement to actively invite 100% of eligible individuals. Providers and commissioners will be required, if asked, to demonstrate that they are compliant.

As previously mentioned, the comprehensive *Inactivated influenza vaccine: information for healthcare practitioners* published by PHE, is an excellent source of information: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inactivated-influenza-vaccine-information-for-healthcare-practitioners>

*Green Book flu chapter19:* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/influenza-the-green-book-chapter-19>

Other resources published by PHE, including *patient information* and *slide sets for HCP training*, can be accessed: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/annual-flu-programme#2018-to-2019-flu-season>

The *flu immunisation e-learning programme* is available: <https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/flu-immunisation/>

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**Immunisation Specifications and Contracts**

Seasonal Flu and Childhood Seasonal Influenza vaccination services were offered out for contractual sign up at the beginning of the year. Specifications can be found here:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/gp-contract-2017-18-enhanced-service-specifications/> (NB the link *will* take you to 2018-19 specifications despite referencing 2017-18)

The services have also been offered out on CQRS to facilitate data extraction/ payment. Practices should accept the service on CQRS if they have not already done so.

**Clinical Coding**

The GPES searches for payment on CQRS have been written in snomed clinical codes. However, this is in dual running with practices continuing to use existing coding i.e. CTV 3 (S1 practices) and Read V2 (Emis practices).

The GP clinical system suppliers will convert these existing codes into snomed, therefore practices should continue to code as in previous years and follow any advice given by their GP system suppliers.

A further email about 9OX4 coding will follow shortly.

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**Screening Information**

Nothing new this month…watch this space in September!

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**Screening and Immunisation Team – where to direct your queries**

General immunisation queries and any problems with immunisation payments and claims can be directed to [england.llimms@nhs.net](mailto:england.llimms@nhs.net) and PGDs can be found on our website <https://www.england.nhs.uk/mids-east/info-professionals/ll-immunisation/>. PLEASE NOTE: This link has recently been changed and, although, for the time being, the old link still works, the NHS England web team have advised using this new link from now on.

**General enquiries to** –

Louise Fergusson on 0113 824 9515 / 07568 431900

Louise.fergusson@nhs.net

or

Vanessa Robinson on 0113 825 3495 / 07714 772645

Vanessa.robinson3@nhs.net

**Health Protection Team Contact Details**

The PHE Health Protection Team now operates an Acute Response Centre (ARC). To contact them dial 03442254524 – option 1 and they will answer any immediate immunisation queries. *All enquiries about the management of patients with flu and/ or their contacts should be directed to the HPT.*