

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

**Screening and Immunisation Team Update**

**W/C 26th November 2018**

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

**Immunisation Information**

**Current flu season aTIV (Fluad) supplies - for information and action**

We realise that this remains very difficult for everyone concerned, however, it has, been emphasised once more to the Screening and Immunisation Teams that we are all obliged to adhere the national steer on this. At the current time that position has not changed. There is sufficient aTIV vaccine in the system as a whole and so, if there is no aTIV available in the surgery or local pharmacy, patients should continue to be advised to wait: there is still the possibility of aTIV being made available through local movement of vaccine, a process that has only just begun. We are unable to advise local practices to use QIV. Attached is a more detailed summary of the current position.

Considerations for releasing aTIV:

We are aware that some practices have concerns that QOF registers may not yet be fully reflective of those who are in a clinical risk category and may be reluctant to release stocks.

We would suggest that you review activity to date in terms of uptake for ≥ 65 (who are all at risk by virtue of age); compare this to last year, the level of interest and demand you are still experiencing, any awareness of existing local stocks e.g. with local pharmacies that your population are likely to be able to access. Please consider whether any remaining stock is likely to be used or whether you may be able to release some (not necessarily all) remaining aTIV for local stock management to protect vulnerable patients. **Please respond to your CCG flu lead’s request for information about any known/ likely shortfall or surplus that your practice will have - and do not discard or return any unused vaccine.**

**Current flu season QIV vaccine supplies - for information and action**

The latest information that we have (as of Friday 23rd November) is that there are no longer supplies of QIV available to order. There is a suggestion that Sanofi may have some further stocks delivered to them, but that these are already accounted for. At this time QIV has not been granted an exemption by the MHRA with regard to movement of vaccine supplies from one service provider to another **but if you have spare vaccine we urge you to retain it for the time being - just in case this policy changes.**

**Care home vaccination coverage - for information and action**

With regard to winter preparedness, and in response to a request from local, director-level NHS England management to seek assurance about the protection of care home residents, we have asked the CCG flu leads to ask practices for information about flu vaccination coverage of their care home patient population. We realise that this is already a very busy time, but this request is due to the particular vulnerability of this group, and the need to assist the movement of available supplies to protect them. Essentially, we need to know whether there are care home residents who wish to receive the vaccine but have not yet been able to do so due to the ongoing supply issues. **Please respond directly to any request for information from your CCG flu lead.**

**Adult flu vaccine ordering 2019/20 - for information and action**

We forwarded an email and letter from Dr Stephen Powis last week (attached in case you missed them). Two recommended vaccines are already available to order. The others are still unlicensed (licenses expected December 2018). The letter includes a summary table and FAQ. Once licensed, the recommended vaccines will be interchangeable *within* the age groups, i.e. egg-grown QIV (QIVe) *or* cell-grown QIV (QIVc) for those 18-64 and aTIV *or* QIVc *or* High-Dose TIV (TIV-HD) for those aged ≥65. Note: unadjuvanted TIV is *not* recommended for any patient. We will contact you again about this as soon as we have an update.

**Rabies vaccine - post-exposure - for information**

You will have seen recent reports of a UK patient death due to rabies. If you have any queries from patients about bites and post-exposure prophylaxis please contact either the PHE Rabies and Immunoglobulin Service (RIgS - for health professionals only) or the local Health Protection Team for advice. If warranted the vaccine/ immunoglobulin is supplied free-of-charge. Post exposure vaccination for rabies exposure is **‘immediate and necessary’**. All PHE rabies advice (pre- and post- exposure, including travel and occupational risk) and the contact details for RIgS are available online. See: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/rabies-risk-assessment-post-exposure-treatment-management>

**Live vaccine administration “rules” - for information**

Just a reminder that the “rules” about which live vaccines must be given at the same time, or 4 weeks’ apart, changed on 24th April 2015. Not all GB chapters have since been updated, so the information in this standalone guidance, published under the Green Book heading, is the most up to date and should be followed. In practice, there are now very few vaccines of concern in this regard. See: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/revised-recommendations-for-administering-more-than-1-live-vaccine>

**Vaccine Update – for Information**

Here’s the list of contents for the November issue which has just been published: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/759287/VU_288_November_2018.pdf>

* meningococcal disease
* latest update on Adjuvinated Trivalent Influenza Vaccine (aTIV)
* recently published tetanus guidance
* information on vaccines and porcine gelatine (new translations available)
* supply of UK-licensed BCG vaccine
* ordering reminder for Fluenz Tetra vaccine
* ordering reminder for MMR vaccine
* update on Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine (PPV)
* information on Christmas and New Year deliveries
* details of Fundamentals of Immunisation course

**PGDs**

**PCV13 - for information**

The extension to the current routine PCV13 PGD (SIPGD009 - SMHSIPGD009 in Northamptonshire) expires at the end of January. We still have no date for the previously announced adjustment to the infant schedule and so PHE colleagues are drafting versions of the PGD that reflect both the current schedule (2+1) and the new one (which will be 1+1), and will issue the appropriate one in good time!

**PGD webpages - for information and action**

Once the new PCV13 PGD has been published we will look to reorganise our PGD webpages as we will at last have just one set of nationally produced, locally adopted PGDs that cover practices throughout our entire geography (alone). **If you have any feedback about these pages then please let us know so that we can consider it when making any changes.** Thank you.

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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 and PGDs can be found on our website <https://www.england.nhs.uk/mids-east/info-professionals/ll-immunisation/>.

**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.