

# The Community Pharmacy Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Advanced Service 2024/25



# Overview

- Highlight the main changes for 2024/25
- Describe the broad service requirements
- Signpost to further documentation and resources which pharmacy owners and pharmacy teams should read



# Main changes for 2024/25

- Timing of the start of the programme – phased start
- Pharmacy technicians can now provide NHS flu vaccinations via the patient group direction
- Stronger guidance on use of second line vaccines
- Recombinant quadrivalent influenza vaccine (QIVr) will not be available
- High-dose quadrivalent influenza vaccine (QIV-HD) can be used – only licensed for those aged 60 years and over.
- National Booking Service (NBS) now available to all pharmacies to schedule appointments



# Service documentation

- Service specification
- Patient Group Direction (PGD)
- National Protocol
- Secretary of State Directions
- Links to all can be found at [cpe.org.uk/flu](https://cpe.org.uk/flu)



# Legal authorisation



## PGD

- Used by an appropriate trained practitioner
- Practitioners listed in the Qualifications and professional registration section
- Pharmacy technicians can use this mechanism

## National protocol

- Alternative legal mechanism for the supply or administration of prescription only medicines
- Allows those who cannot operate under a PGD and non-registered healthcare professionals to administer flu vaccines

Must only provide the service under the supervision of a pharmacist, trained in vaccinations (including a clear understanding of the service)

# When will the service start?

Start date	Eligible cohort
From 1st September 2024	Pregnant women
From 3rd October 2024	All other eligible adult patients

- Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advice moving the start of the programme
- Evidence flu vaccine's effectiveness can wane over time in adults
- You cannot commence NHS vaccinations prior to the relevant commencement dates
- Payment to all providers only from the service commencement date
- Maximise administration of vaccine by 30th November 2024

# Premises requirements

- The pharmacy must have a consultation room which meets the requirements of the Terms of Service
- Vaccination must take place in the consultation room when the patient expresses this preference
- Vaccinations can be offered in other areas of the pharmacy
- Equipment and drugs required for managing anaphylaxis



# Training requirements



- ✓ Complete annual update training course before self-declaration
- ✓ Face-to-face injection technique and BLS training – periodically
- ✓ Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians – If using, **Declaration of Competence**, update every two years
- ✓ Alternatively, UK Health Security Agency **Flu vaccinator competency assessment tool**.
- ✓ New vaccinators – undertake a period of supervised clinical practice
- ✓ Read and adhere to the pharmacy's standard operating procedure



# Patient eligibility

- Appendix A of the service specification or inclusion criteria of PGD and national protocol
- If patients are not eligible for the Advanced service:
  - But are eligible for NHS vaccination, refer to their GP practice
  - Could potentially offer them a private flu vaccination
- Pharmacy staff not covered as frontline worker
  - Employers may wish to offer pharmacy staff flu vaccinations as part of their occupational health arrangements

# Types of vaccines in 2024/25



## At risk adults aged 18–64 years

- Cell-based quadrivalent vaccine (**QIVc**) or High-dose quadrivalent influenza vaccine (**QIV-HD**) (aged 60–64 years)
- **ONLY** offer egg-grown quadrivalent influenza (**QIVe**) when every attempt to use **QIVc** or **QIV-HD** (aged 60–64 years) has been exhausted

## All adults aged 65 years and over

- Offer adjuvanted quadrivalent influenza vaccine (**aQIV**) or **QIV-HD**
- **ONLY** offer **QIVc** when every attempt to use **aQIV** or **QIV-HD** has been exhausted
- aQIV recommended to be offered 'off label' to those who become 65 years by 31st March 2025
- **Note: QIVe is not recommended for those aged 65 years and over**

# Individuals with an egg allergy

- Individuals with a **severe anaphylaxis to egg** which has **previously required intensive care** can be immunised in any setting using an **egg-free vaccine**, e.g. QIVc
- Individuals with **less severe egg allergy** can be immunised in any setting using an egg-free vaccine or an inactivated influenza vaccine with an **ovalbumin content less than 0.12 mcg/ml** (equivalent to 0.06 mcg for 0.5 ml dose)

# Enduring flexibilities

- Supports vaccinations in other locations
- Vaccination in the pharmacy, outside the consultation room, but elsewhere within the premises
  - Still needs to be confidential

# Off-site vaccination

- Can administer at a patient's home where requested by the patient
- Can vaccinate patients in care homes or long-stay residential nursing homes as well as staff at these locations
- Must have valid **Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate**
- No requirement to notify NHS England of intent to provide off-site NHS flu vaccinations
- Must consider any other vaccines needed and options for co-administration
- Vaccinations should be administered under the supervision of a pharmacist trained in vaccination (including a clear understanding of this service)

# Off-site vaccination

- Continuing flexibilities increase scope of off-site provision

Possible sites include:

- Marquees outside the pharmacy premises
- Local village, town or community halls
- Adapted mobile units such as buses or vans
- Car parks
- Sports halls/Stadiums

- Additional points:

- GPhC premises standards still apply
- Delivering in line with the service requirements
- Maintaining cold chain
- Professional standards
- Disposal of clinical waste or PPV

# Fees and payment

- Fees per administered dose is £9.58
- Reimbursement of vaccine costs at basic price (list price) of the individual vaccine administered + an allowance of the applicable VAT rate
- Claim payment via the NHSBSA Manage Your Service (MYS) application
- Claims should be submitted within one month of, and no later than three months from the claim period for the chargeable activity provided

# Implementation

- Vaccinators to complete their training
- Involve all the team in the service
- Consider your offer this season – appointments, drop-ins, off-site?
- Infection, prevention and control
- Standard operating procedure
- Promotion of the service
- Stock levels
- Flu checklist
- Checked equipment and drugs required for managing anaphylaxis



# Providing the service

- Patient consent
- Service records and IT
- Co-administration of the vaccine
- Storage of vaccines
- Information for patients
- Targeting patient groups
- Communication with GP practices and post event notification
- Clinical waste management
- Prompt claiming

# National Booking Service

- Use is voluntary
- Provides an option to support patients booking an appoint at the pharmacy
- To use, must have completed **NBS flu form** by 1st September 2024
- Open for participating sites to post COVID-19 and flu appointments from Monday 16th September 2024
- Open for bookings from the public from Monday 23rd September 2024
- Last available appointment date on NBS will be Friday 20th December 2024 for both flu and COVID-19

# Further information and resources

- [cpe.org.uk/flu](https://cpe.org.uk/flu)
- FAQs available at [cpe.org.uk/flufaq](https://cpe.org.uk/flufaq)
- Additional support [services.team@cpe.org.uk](mailto:services.team@cpe.org.uk)
- Sign up to our e-newsletters at [cpe.org.uk/enews](https://cpe.org.uk/enews)
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Thank you  
and  
good luck with the  
service