

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

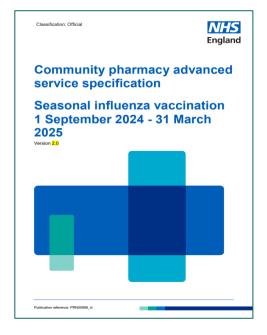






Service documentation

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





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)
- <u>ONLY</u> 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
- <u>ONLY</u> 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 coadministration
- 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
- FAQs available at cpe.org.uk/flufaqs
- Additional support services.team@cpe.org.uk

- Sign up to our e-newsletters at cpe.org.uk/enews
- @ComPharmEngland



Thank you and good luck with the service