

August 2018

PSNC Briefing 041/18: Changes to the Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Advanced Service 2018/19

Following the recommissioning of the Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Advanced Service (Flu Vaccination Service) for 2018/19, PSNC has agreed several changes to the service with NHS England; this PSNC Briefing provides a summary of these changes.

Most of the changes were proposed by PSNC following the Committee's consideration of feedback on the operation of the service in previous years, which was received from pharmacy contractors and LPCs.

At the time of publication of this Briefing, the [service specification and Patient Group Direction](#) for the service have been published; however, the amendments to the Secretary of State Directions, which provide the legal basis for provision of the service, have not. PSNC will highlight to contractors when the amendments have been made via our normal communication channels; please sign up to receive PSNC e-newsletters at psnc.org.uk/enews to ensure you are notified.

Agreed changes to the Flu Vaccination Service 2018/19

<p>Training</p>	<p>Face-to-face training for injection technique and basic life support (including the administration of adrenaline for anaphylaxis) for pharmacists who intend to provide the service now needs to be completed at least every three years; previously this training was required every two years.</p> <p>The Community Pharmacy Competence Group has published a new combined Vaccination Services Declaration of Competence (DoC). Previously, there were two separate DoC frameworks for vaccination services; the NHS Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Advanced Service and other locally commissioned immunisation services; these two have been merged into a single DoC.</p> <p>Therefore, pharmacists who intend to provide the Flu Vaccination Service and a locally commissioned influenza service will now only be required to complete one DoC. Pharmacists must review their DoC every two years; there is no need for all pharmacists to immediately complete the new single vaccination DoC unless they have not previously completed a DoC for flu vaccination or they are due to review their DoC.</p>
<p>Service sign-up</p>	<p>Contractors are no longer required to complete a form on the NHS Business Services Authority (NHS BSA) website before they start providing the service, to inform NHS England that they intend to provide the service.</p>
<p>Eligible patient groups</p>	<p>Hospice care workers have been added as an eligible group to have a flu vaccination. Hospice care workers are health and care staff employed by a voluntary managed hospice provider who are directly involved in the care of vulnerable patients/clients who are at increased risk from exposure to influenza. Vulnerable means those patients/clients in a clinical risk group for flu or who are aged 65 years and over.</p> <p>Social care workers were added as a temporary eligible group in November 2017, but NHS England has decided that they will continue to be eligible for the service in 2018/19.</p>

Type of vaccine	<p>Adjuvanted trivalent influenza vaccine (aTIV) (Fluad, Seqirus) should be offered to all those aged 65 and over, whilst adults aged under 65 in clinical at-risk groups should be offered a quadrivalent influenza vaccine.</p> <p>Further information on this can be found in the Guidance for pharmacy contractors and general practices on providing the 2018/19 flu vaccination service and Inactivated influenza vaccine information for healthcare practitioners (August 2018).</p>
Paperwork	<p>In light of the General Data Protection Regulations and to facilitate the expansion of the post-payment verification process to cover the Flu Vaccination Service, the consent form and record form have been separated into two different forms.</p> <p>The patient questionnaire has been updated following a review by PSNC’s Research Fellow at the University of Sunderland. More granular data will now be captured which should help strengthen the evidence base for the service. The GP notification form has also been updated to reflect the additional groups of patients eligible for vaccination and to update the SNOMED CT code which is used to record the vaccination in GP clinical systems.</p> <p>It is therefore important to discard any previously printed versions of the Flu Vaccination Service paperwork and ensure that the new forms are used. The new forms are available on the PSNC website at psnc.org.uk/flu.</p>
Off-site vaccination	<p>Contractors who intend to vaccinate patients in long-stay residential care homes or other long-stay care facilities no longer need to seek permission from the local NHS England team to do this. However, contractors do need to notify their local NHS England team that they intend to undertake vaccinations off-site (i.e. off the pharmacy premises) in care homes, other long-stay care facilities, or patients’ homes (see below) by completing a form which can be found in the service specification.</p> <p>Pharmacies must still inform the patient’s GP practice prior to vaccinating patients in a long-stay residential care home or other long-stay care facility.</p> <p>Contractors can also now administer a flu vaccination at a patient’s home, where this service is requested by the patient, providing the pharmacy has an existing clinical relationship with the patient, e.g. pharmacy services have previously been provided to the patient, and the pharmacy has notified their local NHS England team (as above).</p>
Claiming payment	<p>Contractors have the option to submit their claims for payment electronically via an NHS BSA webform. The NHS BSA will send a unique link to this webform in emails which will be sent to each community pharmacy premises-shared NHSmail account on a monthly basis.</p> <p>As in previous years, contractors can continue to use the paper claim form, submitted to the NHS BSA if they wish, however, contractors should ensure they are making a single claim each calendar month.</p> <p>If a contractor fails to submit a claim for payment for provision of the service at the month end, claims for payment will be accepted by the NHS BSA within six months of administration of the vaccination, in accordance with the usual Drug Tariff claims process.</p>
Funding	<p>The fee for vaccination has increased to £7.98 per administered dose of vaccine plus an additional fee of £1.50 per vaccination (therefore a total payment of £9.48).</p>

Further information, resources and answers frequently asked questions are available at psnc.org.uk/flu.

If you have queries on this PSNC Briefing or you require more information please contact [Zainab Al-Kharsan, Service Development Pharmacist](#).