

Representing:

- Dorset LMC
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight LMC
- BaNES, Swindon & Wiltshire LMC

Supporting:

- Channel Islands

Registered Office:

Churchill House
122-124 Hursley Road
Chandler's Ford
Eastleigh
Hampshire, SO53 1JB

Email: office@wessexlmcs.org.uk

Web Site: www.wessexlmcs.com

Tel: 023 8025 3874

Fax: 023 8027 6414

To: All Practice Managers in Wessex Area – Sent 18th July 2018

Dear Colleagues

We are writing to inform you that Wessex LMCs and the corresponding LPCs have decided to collaborate in promoting this year's flu immunisation campaign.

We will be using a combination of social media and local press to promote vaccine uptake.

We realise that given current financial constraints, practices and pharmacies are increasingly reliant on the income generated by the flu immunisation programme. There have been concerns in the past that General Practice and Community Pharmacies are directly competing for flu immunisations and that this could have a potentially destabilising effect financially for both parties.

Flu immunisation uptake in Wessex for 2016/17 was 71.7 % for over 65s and 49.9% 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.

This year we are faced with using two different types of vaccine for adults, depending on age. There have been national assurances that there will be adequate supplies of the new adjuvanted Trivalent vaccine and that deliveries to practices and pharmacies will be equitable but in a staggered time scale across September, October and November.

This will undoubtedly add to the logistical burden for all parties delivering the vaccine and we feel that it is in everyone's interest to have a joint approach in promoting the new vaccine and encouraging uptake.

By increasing immunisation up take we can ensure that more of our vulnerable patients in Wessex are protected against influenza whilst at the same time protecting a vital income stream for both practices and pharmacies.

Signed by



Dr Nigel Watson
Chief Executive

Wessex LMCs



Mrs Fiona Castle
Community Pharmacy Swindon

& Wilts




Mrs Deborah Crockford, Chief Officer
Community Pharmacy South Central




Mrs Amanda Moores
Chief Officer
Dorset Local Pharmaceutical Committee




Richard Brown
Chief Officer
Avon LPC



Chief Executive: Dr Nigel Watson **Wessex LMCs Chairman:** Dr Jonathan Evans