What's different about the 2010/11 seasonal flu vaccine programme compared to previous years?

This year's programme is very similar to previous years but with 2 important differences:

- Under 5s in an 'at risk' group and all those people who are immunocompromised require a dose of the monovalent H1N1 vaccine, if they have not had it previously, in addition to the trivalent seasonal flu vaccine(s)
- Pregnant women not in an 'at risk' group require a dose of the seasonal flu vaccine if they've not received monovalent H1N1 vaccine previously

Do pregnant women who were pregnant last year, or before October 1st, and received H1N1 monovalent vaccine need the seasonal flu vaccine?

No. The main reason for vaccinating pregnant women with the seasonal flu vaccine is to protect them and their babies against the H1N1 virus. If they have previously received the H1N1 vaccine, they will already be immunised and protected.

When will vaccination of pregnant women with H1N1 vaccine stop?

Pregnant women will be offered the H1N1 vaccine by their GPs or at NHSGGC maternity units until 30th September 2010. From 1st October, pregnant women 'at risk' and those who have not received the H1N1 monovalent vaccine should be offered the seasonal flu vaccine by their GP practice.

How will GPs know if pregnant women have been previously immunised with the H1N1 vaccine?

If immunised in the practice, details should be recorded within practice systems. Lists of those immunised by Midwifery Services will be sent by PHPU to all practices by Friday 8th October 2010.

Is the vaccine safe for pregnant women?

The seasonal flu vaccine is manufactured using well-established processes used over the last 60 years, and is administered annually to millions of people all over the world. Seasonal flu vaccines have been given to pregnant women routinely in the USA, Canada and other industrialised countries for many years without any significant problems.

What about Thiomersal (mercury-containing preservative)?

Of the 11 available vaccines, the 2 vaccine products distributed by Pfizer Vaccines (formerly Wyeth Vaccines), Enziros and CSL Biotherapies Generic Influenza Vaccine, are not recommended for children under 5 due to an increased risk of febrile convulsions.

Are the PGDs available?

Yes, from Gillian Halyburton, Practice Nurse Advisor.

Can practice staff get the seasonal flu vaccine?

Yes. From their GP if they're in an 'at risk' group or from their own practice as a healthcare worker with direct patient care responsibilities.

How is the vaccine ordered?

As before, seasonal flu vaccine should be ordered through local community pharmacies. H1N1 vaccine will continue to be available from the Pharmacy Distribution Centre (347 8981).

Is there national guidance on flu vaccine?

Yes, go to the Green Book www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_118923.pdf
INFLUENZA VACCINATION FOR THE 2010/11 WINTER

Clinical Groups

Group 1
- All aged 65 years & over (excluding those immunocompromised)
- Health & Social Care workers
- Carers
- Long Stay Patients
- Poultry Workers

- One Dose Trivalent Seasonal Influenza Vaccine

Group 2
- People in usual seasonal flu at risk groups (excluding those immunocompromised)

- Children aged 6 months to under 5 years

- Previously received Monovalent H1N1 vaccine
- ° Trivalent Seasonal Flu Vaccine (together)
- Monovalent H1N1

- One Dose Trivalent Seasonal Influenza Vaccine

- Have not received Monovalent H1N1 vaccine

- ** Trivalent Seasonal Flu Vaccine (together)
- Monovalent H1N1

- 4 weeks later

- One Dose ** Trivalent Seasonal Influenza Vaccine
  (if no seasonal flu vaccine in previous years)

Group 3
- All immunocompromised people (Details in Green Book)

- Aged 6 months to under 13 years

- Received Seasonal Flu Vaccine in previous years
- % Have not previously received ANY type of Flu vaccine

- Previously received Monovalent H1N1 vaccine

- ° Trivalent Seasonal Flu Vaccine (together)
- Monovalent H1N1

- One Dose Monovalent H1N1

- Have not received Monovalent H1N1 vaccine

- ** Trivalent Seasonal Flu Vaccine (together)
- Monovalent H1N1

- 4 weeks later

- One Dose ** Trivalent Seasonal Influenza Vaccine

Group 4
- Pregnant women

- Pregnant women not in at risk group

- Pregnant women in seasonal flu at risk groups

- Previously received Monovalent H1N1 vaccine

- One Dose Monovalent H1N1

- NO VACCINE REQUIRED

- Have not received Monovalent H1N1 vaccine

- One Dose Monovalent H1N1

** Do not use Enzira or CSL Biotherapies Generic Influenza Vaccine on the under 5s


If you would like to comment on any aspect of this newsletter please contact Marie Laurie on 201 4933 or at marie.laurie@ggc.scot.nhs.uk