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Uptake target  
for <65s now  
75%

Book here for  
flu seminar

# Seasonal flu – 2011/12

## Special Edition Newsletter

Public Health Protection Unit  
Telephone 0141 201 4917

e-mail: [phpu@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:phpu@ggc.scot.nhs.uk)  
Fax 0141 201 4950

### Uptake targets for at-risk groups

Uptake targets for 'at risk' groups set by the CMO for 2011/12 are as follows :-

- Over 65 group remains at 75%.
- Under 65s 'at-risk' has **increased** from 60% to 75%.
- **All** pregnant women at *any* stage of pregnancy, whether in a clinical "at risk" category or otherwise healthy.
- Health Care Workers: the Scottish Government is looking to achieve a 50% uptake of vaccine in key clinical areas and will conduct a survey in 2012 to monitor uptake-rates. Uptake last year in NHSGGC was ~25%

### Flu vaccination – information seminars

To support practices in the delivery of the 2011/2012 flu vaccination programme, the Public Health Protection Unit is running two flu information seminars for GPs, Practice Nurses, and other relevant practice staff on the various aspects of the flu programme. The time and dates of the venues are as follows:

Tues 20th September 2011 12pm - 2pm Beardmore Hotel & Conference Centre, Clydebank

Wed 21st September 2011 12pm - 2pm Erskine Bridge Hotel, Erskine

To register, click on venue of choice below:

<http://beardmore-seasonalflu-2011.eventbrite.com/> or <http://erskine-seasonalflu-2011.eventbrite.com/>

The seminar agenda:-

12:00 - 12:25: Light lunch (Tea, coffee, biscuits, sandwiches)

12:25 - 13:30: Introduction & Welcome (Monica Maguire)

12.30-12:50: CMO Letter; Uptake Targets; 2011/2012 Flu Epidemiology; Vaccine (Dr Syed Ahmed/ Scott Hanley)

12:50 - 13:10: IT Systems: Identifying Cohorts; Call/Recall; Immunisation Recording (Louise McTaggart)

13:10 - 13:30: Improving Uptake (speaker to be confirmed)

13:30 - 14:00: Questions & Answers

### Flu vaccine and egg allergy

Patients with an egg allergy may be at increased risk of reaction to influenza vaccines. Depending on the severity of the allergy, and age of the patient, management should be as follows:

Patients who have either a *confirmed anaphylaxis* to egg OR egg allergy with *uncontrolled* asthma:

- those aged 18 years or over can be vaccinated at the practice with an egg-free influenza vaccine (see section below for details). *Please note that the egg-free vaccine (PREFLUCEL<sup>®</sup>) is only licensed for individuals aged 18 or over*
- those under 18 years of age should be referred to Dr Rosie Hague, Royal Hospital for Sick Children for vaccination using a vaccine with an ovalbumin content less than 0.06µg per 0.5ml dose (see section below for details). *Please note that children under 13 who have never received a flu vaccine previously will require 2 doses and some patients may require individual doses to be "split", depending on the severity of their condition (at the discretion of the physician)*

Patients with any other type of egg allergy can be vaccinated using a vaccine with an ovalbumin content < 0.06µg per 0.5ml dose (2 doses for those children who have not previously received a flu vaccine). Practice staff should be trained on how to treat anaphylaxis and use the equipment that must be at hand during the vaccination session.

PREFLUCEL<sup>®</sup>  
licensed only  
for 18 and  
over

Flu vaccination  
for NHS staff -  
arrange yours  
now →

## Flu vaccines – antigens and allergens

The 2011/2012 trivalent (3-in-1) Seasonal Flu vaccine contains and therefore protects against the following 3 flu antigens:

- **H1N1 (2009)** [*pandemic A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus*]
- **H3N2** [*A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like virus*]
- **Influenza B** [*B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus*]

Community Pharmacists should now be in possession of the flu vaccine they ordered earlier this year. Practices should continue to liaise closely with their Community Pharmacist to ensure vaccine availability and sufficient stock is guaranteed prior to the scheduling of clinics.

### Egg-free vaccine

PREFLUCEL<sup>®</sup> is an egg-free vaccine (cultured in vero cells not hen's egg) produced by Baxter Healthcare Ltd. Due to the later-than-normal availability of this vaccine, a limited supply has been allocated to each health board, with NHS GGC receiving 500 doses. Where clinically indicated, practices can order PREFLUCEL<sup>®</sup> on a case-by-case basis from the Pharmacy Distribution Centre in Govan. Please fax orders on headed paper with name and date of birth of the egg-allergic patient to 0141 445 1513.

The egg-albumen content and age-indication of the available flu vaccines are detailed on the link below:

[Flu vaccine allergy chart](#)

*None of the flu vaccines for 2011/12 season contains thiomersal*

## Resources - links, posters and flyers

A poster targeted at 'at risk' patients will be circulated in glossed A3 format and in A5 flyer format to all GPs via the black/orange bag system by early October. This poster will also be on display in all Outpatient Clinic areas in NHS GGC Acute sites.

[Click here](#) to see the 'at risk' flu poster

All practices should already have received the NHS GGC 'Pregnancy & Flu' poster in April this year. However, glossed A3 posters and A5 flyer versions are available by contacting [scott.hanley@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:scott.hanley@ggc.scot.nhs.uk).

[Click here](#) for a list of the clinical 'at risk' groups

[Click here](#) to read the latest CMO letter July 2011 (SGHD/CMO (2011) 8

[Click here](#) to see the updated PGD (circulated previously)

[Guidance on the management of egg allergy](#) is available in the on-line Green Book

## Occupational vaccination - personal choice or duty of care ?

After reaching an all time high of approximately 50% during the H1N1 (2009) pandemic of 2009/10, vaccination rates for seasonal flu among HCWs in NHS GGC barely reached 25% last year, a trend seen elsewhere. A recent article in The Lancet ([Volume 378, Issue 9788, Pages 310-311, 23 July 2011](#)) argued that flu vaccination of HCWs should be mandatory and a condition of employment, an approach adopted by an increasing number of health care systems in North America with uptake rates as high as 98%.

In the UK, all immunisation programmes are voluntary based on the principle that "immunisation is more highly valued by a public persuaded of its benefits not coerced." This approach has served the UK well with one of the most successful general immunisation programmes in the world. But occupational vaccination is an exception and unless HCWs in the UK take seriously their responsibility not to place their vulnerable patients at undue risk of harm, regrettably the time may come for the UK to consider adopting the American mandatory approach

It is the responsibility of each practice to ensure that its direct employees are offered the seasonal flu vaccine. NHS GGC employees will be offered the vaccine through the Occupational Health Service. Information on how NHS GGC employees can get vaccinated will be made available to them through email, online and by the relevant CHP/partnership networks.

Click below to access drop-in vaccination session for NHS health care workers:

<http://www.staffnet.ggc.scot.nhs.uk/Human%20Resources/Occupational%20Health/Pages/default.aspx>

If you would like to comment on any aspect of this newsletter please contact Marie Laurie on 0141 201 4933 or at [marie.laurie@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:marie.laurie@ggc.scot.nhs.uk)