

PHPU Newsletter

Special Immunisation Edition

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[PHPU Website](#) [PHPU Newsletters](#)

Flu vaccine-uptake rates last season

The table below summarises the flu vaccine-uptake rates in NHSGGC last flu season (2017/18)

Eligible groups	Average uptake rate	Range	National uptake target
65 yrs and over	73.9%	55.3 - 89.1%	75%
<65yrs 'at risk'	45.6%	24.2 - 68.5%	75%
Children 2-5 yrs	54.7%	10.2 - 93.1%	65%
Pregnant Women (not in another clinical risk group)	54.2%	14.29 - 100%	-

A significant proportion of the vulnerable population in NHSGGC remained unprotected from the risks and complications of influenza last season. Those practices that achieved a good flu vaccine uptake are encouraged to continue the work this season. Those who achieved a low uptake across the groups, i.e., below national target, should review their approach and aim to protect as many vulnerable patients as possible.

Adult flu immunisation programme 2018/19

The Adult Flu vaccination campaign is more complicated this year due to a late change in the recommended vaccine for certain patient groups and the availability of vaccine.

Three types of flu vaccine will be used in the adult flu vaccination programme 2018/19. This will benefit patients by ensuring that they have the specific vaccine to best protect them against flu. Please note that all PGD changes have now been made and the finalised versions are listed and summarised on the [link](#).

The vaccines to be used for specific age and at-risk groups are detailed in Section 3 of the [CMO Letter \(2018\)07](#)

The following aids have been devised to assist clinicians in deciding which flu vaccine to use in adults aged 18 yrs and over.

[A flu vaccine eligibility calculator](#)

[Flow chart](#)

The [NES seasonal flu web page](#) has all the information about this year's programme and provides links to various resources including a new [poster](#) in which images of the vaccines are presented alongside the recommended age-groups for ease of identification. These posters along with other routine resources provided annually will be made available to all GP practices soon.

Ordering flu vaccine for adults – availability issues with aTIV

The [CMO letter](#) highlights availability issues with the adjuvanted Trivalent Inactivated flu vaccine (aTIV). It will be delivered as 3 separate orders i.e. not via one single order, as follows:

1st order: for maximum of **40%** of practice list patients aged 75 and over only.

This will be delivered to practices (on their normal delivery day) week beginning Monday 17th September. Please note, this is **40% of the practice's total cohort aged 75 and over** and not 40% of the normal uptake achieved. This order should have been placed with Movianto by Friday 31st August. Practices that have not yet submitted an order should do so urgently, via the online facility, to secure supply.

Subsequent orders should be placed as required, bearing in mind practice delivery and order cut-off days/times.

2nd order: for a further **20%** of practice list patients aged 75 and over only. This will be delivered to practices the week beginning Monday 15th October.

3rd order: for the final **40%** of practice list patients aged 75 and over only. To be delivered to practices week beginning Monday 5th November.

Practices should use Movianto's track-and-trace facility to ensure vaccine is on its way before arranging clinics or appointments. As per section 5 of the [CMO letter](#) separate needles should also be ordered for aTIV from the Movianto site.

Childhood flu immunisation programme 2018/19

All details relating to the Childhood Flu Immunisation Programme are contained within the [CMO letter 2018/06](#)

The Fluenz Tetra® intranasal spray vaccine is currently scheduled to arrive at NHSGGC's Pharmacy Distribution Centre (PDC) on **Wednesday 3rd October**. Practices are advised not to schedule vaccination for 2 to 5 year olds and other young people until after delivery of the Fluenz® vaccine on their scheduled delivery day, week commencing 8th October.

Please note that Fluenz Tetra® should be ordered from the PDC from the week commencing 10th September. (**NB** this vaccine has a short shelf-life (18 weeks from date of manufacture), therefore, practices should order minimal stock as required throughout the flu season).

There is a theoretical potential for transmission of live attenuated influenza virus in Fluenz Tetra® to severely immunocompromised contacts for one to two weeks following vaccination. Where close contact with very severely immunocompromised patients e.g., bone marrow transplant patients requiring isolation, is likely or unavoidable (e.g. household members), appropriate, alternative inactivated influenza vaccines should be considered.

The following aids have been devised to assist clinicians in deciding which flu vaccine to use in children.

[Flow Chart](#) to assist clinicians in deciding the flu vaccine to use in children birth - preschool 2018/19

[Flow Chart](#) to assist clinicians in deciding which flu vaccine to use in primary school children 2018/19

Flu vaccine and egg allergy

Staff should refer to the relevant chapter in the [Green Book](#). The advice is summarised below:-

- Egg albumin allergy (no history of anaphylaxis) use a low ovalbumin vaccine [<0.06µg/0.5ml](#)
 - Adults:** Sanofi Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine
 - Children:** LAIV (Fluenz Tetra®)
- Confirmed history of anaphylaxis - **do not immunise** unless in a location where resuscitation staff are available

Porcine gelatin and flu vaccine

The intranasal Fluenz Tetra® vaccine is the only flu vaccine that contains porcine gelatin as an excipient. The WHO published guidance on its acceptability to observant faith groups in a [joint letter](#) in 2001.

Healthcare workers and flu vaccination

All HCWs are encouraged to get vaccinated to protect themselves and to reduce the risk of infecting vulnerable patients who may not be immunised against flu.

NHSGGC HCWs can arrange to coordinate a 'Peer' immunisation programme by contacting PeerImmunisationBooking@ggc.scot.nhs.uk. Alternatively, they can attend one of the Occupational Health Department's flu vaccination clinics from 1st October. The schedule of clinics will be advertised by the week of 10th September.

Pneumococcal vaccination for the 65yrs old and over

There is currently a shortage of PPV23. Please note that this vaccine can be offered at any time to those aged 65yrs and over and that flu vaccination should not be delayed. For most patients, this is a one-off vaccination. Further advice is available on the [PHPU website](#)

Shingles vaccine

As per the [CMO letter](#), this vaccine should be offered to all **unvaccinated** people aged 70-79 years from 1st September 2018. Vaccine should not be offered to anyone aged over 80, even if they have previously been eligible. There are currently no issues with vaccine availability from the PDC. Please ensure that minimum stock is held at practices to avoid waste of this expensive vaccine.

For more information on flu immunisation please go to the [PHPU Flu site](#)

If you would like to comment on any aspect of this newsletter please contact Marie Laurie on 0141 201 4917 or email marie.laurie@ggc.scot.nhs.uk