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To: All GP Practices NHSGGC
Cc: HSCP Clinical Directors
Liz Gillan, GMS Contract Manager

Date: 4 August 2021
Our Ref: LK/04082021
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Dear Colleague

COVID-19 BOOSTER AND FLU VACCINATION PROGRAMME 2021/22

As you will be aware from national media and correspondence, planning for an Autumn/Winter COVID19 booster vaccination programme is underway across the UK, alongside the seasonal flu vaccination programme. While further clarity and advice is awaited on the details of the Covid19 booster programme in particular, planning is in place in advance of that to ensure that Boards are ready to deliver vaccination programmes from September 2021.

The current planning assumption is that administration of Covid19 boosters and flu vaccines would happen in two stages.

Stage 1 would be to offer a third dose COVID-19 booster and annual flu vaccination from September 2021 to priority groups as below:

- adults aged 16 years and over who are immunosuppressed
- those living in residential care homes for older adults
- all adults aged 70 years or over
- adults aged 16 years and over who are considered clinically extremely vulnerable
- frontline health and social care workers

Stage 2 would cover the following groups:

- all adults aged 50 years and over
- all adults aged 16-49 who are in an influenza or COVID-19 at risk at risk group as set out in the Green Book
- adult household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals

If possible these will be arranged in a single appointment but that is dependent on the timing and the content of the JCVI advice.

This will be alongside the seasonal flu vaccination programme for those eligible as set out in CMO letters CMO(2021)07 and CMO(2021)14 which confirmed the expansion of eligibility including secondary school children, and contractors and their staff.

Arrangements within NHSGGC

GP practices in NHSGGC will *not* be asked to deliver COVID-19 booster and influenza vaccination within GP practices this Autumn.

This is based on a set of considerations including:

- The direction of travel of the Vaccination Transformation Programme as part of the new GMS contract agreement in 2018 which includes the transfer of responsibility for flu vaccination away from GP practices.
- The concomitant delivery of COVID-19 and seasonal flu which expands the programme from standalone flu vaccination delivery, and creates additional reporting requirements and a preference to use national systems for booking and recording.
- The demand and workforce pressures which all practices are reporting at the moment, along with the requirement for practices to focus on chronic disease management and managing urgent and complex presentations.
- The risks that not all practices would be in a position to undertake this programme, resulting in different approaches in different practices and confusion about public messaging and who to contact for information and appointments.

Practices made a huge contribution to both influenza and COVID-19 vaccination last year through both practice and locality based delivery and this was valued enormously by patients. However, we are aware that this was challenging for practices alongside other demands and pressures on space, time and workforce and that these demands are now even more marked.

The intention is therefore to deliver vaccination through community clinics across NHSGGC, supported by HSCP delivery of vaccination to those who cannot travel, with central administration and invitation processes.

As with the wider COVID-19 programme this winter, there will still be a key role for practices in supporting this programme in the following ways:

- Ensuring that practice systems are up to date with vaccination information provided from the national vaccination recording tool, and that patient details are up to date.
- Providing information and advice to patients who contact the practice. We will continue to provide information to practices to help manage these queries.
- Supporting local initiatives to encourage uptake such as specific local campaigns or clinics.
- Providing individual clinical advice to patients with specific queries about vaccination.
- Working with HSCP teams to support the identification of patients who are unable to travel to clinic appointments

The 2018 GMS contract agreement assumes that as responsibility for flu vaccination delivery transfers to Boards, funding will remain with practices based on previous achievement with

practices being paid on the same basis as 2020/21 (and confirmed in the attached Temporary Enhanced Service letter). The delivery of vaccination through community clinics would be considered to meet the requirements of the Vaccination Transformation Programme.

We know that despite the considerations detailed above there may be some practices who are keen to deliver vaccination to some cohorts of patients in their practice and this may be discussed further if there is a particular local exception. No additional funding arising from delivery of flu vaccination is envisaged at this stage as this agreement protects historic income from flu vaccination.

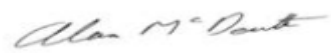
Further updates will be provided to practices on a regular basis on the overall programme delivery. Thank you for your continued support of the vaccination programme.



Lorna Kelly
Interim Director of
Primary Care



Kerri Neylon
Deputy Medical Director for
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Alan McDevitt
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Medical Committee