

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

Date: 13th August 2020
Our Ref: LK/13082020
Enquiries: Primary Care Support
Tel: 0141 211 0212

Dear Colleague,

Flu Immunisation Programme 2020/21

Further to the CMO letter issued last week about the extended eligibility for flu vaccination, we are writing to confirm expected arrangements for flu vaccination delivery this year. We are aware that practices would normally be well advanced in their planning by this time and are anxious to know what the arrangements will be.

These provisional assumptions will be reviewed with Glasgow Local Medical Committee, when the Influenza DES is released, to ensure they are consistent with that.

Planning has taken place on the assumption of these extended cohorts and the knowledge that capacity will be constrained across all settings by the need for social distancing and PPE. It is estimated that this may reduce capacity by up to 2/3 particularly where large flu vaccination clinics have been the delivery model previously. While flu immunisation is a GP practice a Directed Enhanced Service (DES), a whole system collaborative effort will be required to deliver vaccination this year and to prepare for a possible future Covid19 vaccination. This would also be consistent with the direction of travel of the 2018 Scottish GMS Contract.

Our provisional planning assumptions for flu delivery for the different cohorts are as follows:

- **18-65 at-risk.** To be organised and delivered by GP practices (see below)
- **Over 65s.** To be delivered by HSCPs
- **55-64s.** Second phase once the two above are delivered. To be organised and delivered by HSCPs
- **Pregnant Women.** To be delivered by maternity services
- **Household members** of those on the shielding register - TBC

As per the CMO letter, these are part of a wider approach to flu immunisation this year including an extended cohort of health and social care staff.

We are therefore asking practices, as part of the income stability arrangement, to do the following:

- Contribute to local HSCP planning for flu arrangements given the knowledge and expertise which sits with practices
- Organise and deliver flu vaccinations for the 18-65 at-risk cohort. This will be further defined in detail in the DES which is expected shortly.

- Support the administration and recording of the wider flu programme subject to further confirmation of arrangements for invitations and recording of vaccinations.
- Deliver immunisation to eligible patients on an opportunistic basis where patients are attending practices. It is recognised that the opportunities for this will be significantly lower than in previous years given reduced face to face contact.

Funding for this will be based on previous flu immunisation achievement: practices will be paid based on an average of payments for the last three years of flu vaccination delivery in line with arrangements for other services such as routine childhood immunisations, with an appeals process for exceptional circumstances. Details of the payments for each individual Practice will be communicated once calculated.

It is recognised that in some cases practices may face particular challenges even in delivering this reduced cohort this year, for example due to constraints on practice premises. In that case, there could be 2 options;

- 1) To contribute staff time to the HSCP delivery centres at an equivalent number of hours. The current provisional assumption is that practices would supply vaccinator time calculated by last year's total flu vaccinations delivered by the practice/25 = the number of vaccinator hours. This Vaccinator hours 'tariff' is expected to be set by the DES and will be subject to further agreement with the LMC.
- 2) To make use of the local vaccination centres as a venue for the practice staff to deliver the 18-65 at risk cohort.

Practices should let their CD/HSCP flu planning lead and GMSContractTeam@ggc.scot.nhs.uk know ASAP if they need to use one of the alternative options to deliver the 18-65 at-risk cohort.

In the event that uptake for the 18-65 at-risk cohort is significantly higher than previous years, a mechanism for 'mop up' delivery through the HSCP centres and / or additional payments will be put in place.

Vaccine Ordering

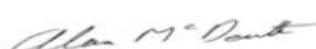
Practices should order vaccines sufficient to meet the requirements of the 18-65 at-risk cohort and opportunistic delivery. Allocations will be based on reimbursement data from PSD as well as ordering data in 2019/20. For <65 "at risk", vaccine for 60% of the total cohort will be available from the start of the flu season, with additional national stock available as required. If GP practices require to order more than their allocated amount, the process this year should be more straightforward and this will be communicated shortly. The date for initial orders to be submitted will be communicated as soon as this is available.

This is a fast moving picture and there remain a number of unknowns. Further communication will follow on the details of local arrangements as available. In the meantime, please continue to engage with your local HSCP planning groups.

Yours sincerely



Lorna Kelly
Head of Primary Care Support and Development



Alan McDevitt
Chair, Glasgow Local Medical Committee

On behalf of the NHSGGC Adult Flu Planning Group