

Dear Colleague

INFLUENZA AND PNEUMOCOCCAL IMMUNISATION DIRECTED ENHANCED SERVICE

Summary

1. This Circular provides guidance to NHS Boards and GP Practices on the Influenza and Pneumococcal Directed Enhanced Service. This guidance replaces NHS circular PCA(M)(2014) 03.
2. This circular also gives Directions to Health Boards on behalf of Scottish Ministers detailing the payment arrangements, **Annex A**, which must be made under the DES.
3. The DES has been agreed with the Scottish General Practitioners Committee (SGPC).
4. [CMO letter SGHD/CMO \(2014\) 13](#) was issued on 18 June 2014 and contains clinical arrangements for the Childhood Influenza Programme.

Background

5. The current Directions requiring Boards to set up an Influenza and Pneumococcal Immunisation Scheme were issued on 29 January 2014.
6. In year one of the childhood flu programme all 2 and 3 year children, were offered vaccination in GP practices. This was in addition to children aged 6 months to under 2 years of age with "at risk" conditions.. This circular provides details of year two of the 2014-15 childhood flu programme, that will formally commence from 1 October 2014. Contractual arrangements apply from 1 August 2014

23 October 2014

Addresses

For Action

Chief Executives NHS Boards

GP Practices

NHS National Services Scotland

For information

Scottish General Practitioners
Committee

Primary Care Leads NHS Boards

Policy Enquiries to:

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7. This circular provides specific details of the Influenza and Pneumococcal Enhanced Service (DES), including funding and payment arrangements, as agreed with the Scottish General Practitioners Committee (SGPC).

Changes from 1 October 2014

8. Children to be vaccinated by GP practices in year two of the childhood flu programme include all pre-school children aged 2 to 5 years, including “at-risk” children in this age group, born between 2 September 2008 and 1 September 2012.
9. GP practices continue to be responsible for providing vaccination for children with “at-risk” conditions aged from 6 months to less than 2 years.
10. GP practices also continue to be responsible for vaccinating all “at-risk” children of secondary school age (12 to 17). Children born between 1 March 2002 and 28 February 2003 will normally enter secondary one in 2014/15.
11. There is no change to the pneumococcal vaccination arrangements.

Target groups (see Green Book Chapter - [Influenza: chapter 19](#))

12. Contractors will be expected to offer immunisation against pneumococcal infection to patients if they are aged 65 years or over.
13. For influenza, contractors will be expected to offer immunisation to the following groups, as set out in the DES Directions 2014:
 -
 - Aged over 6 months to less than 2 years in a clinical “at-risk” group listed in the Schedule;
 - Aged 2 years: all children born on or after 2 September 2011 and on or before 1 September 2012;
 - Aged 3 years: all children born on or after 2 September 2010 and on or before 1 September 2011;
 - Aged 4 years: children born on or after 2 September 2009 and on or before 1 September 2010 who are not yet attending primary school;
 - Aged 5 years: children born on or after 2 September 2008 and on or before 1 September 2009 who are not yet attending primary school;
 - Aged 12 to 17 years in a clinical “at-risk” group listed in the Schedule. Children born between 1 March 2002 and 28 February 2003 will normally enter secondary one in 2014/15 ;
 - Aged 18 years to 65 years in a clinical “at-risk” group listed in the Schedule;
 - Aged 65 years or over;

- Living in long-stay residential care homes or other long-stay care facilities where rapid spread is likely to follow introduction of infection and cause high morbidity and mortality; and
- Unpaid carers

14. The clinical at-risk groups [Influenza](#) - are:

- People with chronic respiratory disease including asthma;
- People with chronic heart disease;
- People with chronic kidney disease;
- People with chronic liver disease;
- People with chronic neurological disease;
- People with diabetes mellitus;
- People who are immunosuppressed
- Pregnant women at any stage of pregnancy

Timing.

15. Contractors are required to deliver the influenza immunisation programme between 1 August 2014 and 31 March 2015 but are asked to concentrate the programme before the end of November to maximise the timely immunoprotection of eligible individuals.

16. The pneumococcal immunisation programme can be given at any time in the year, while concentrating mainly around the time of the influenza vaccination, for operational reasons as well as maximising the timely immune protection of eligible individuals over the winter period.

Reporting arrangements

17. Apart from monitoring uptake for payment purposes, it is important to provide timely data in the interest of patient safety, particularly in situations where the vaccination could be offered in more than one setting. GP practices will be required to provide Health Boards with such and other relevant immunisation data.

18. GP Practices are requested to send to Practitioner Services Division (PSD) a single figure for the total number of children (i.e. a denominator figure) who are in eligible groups within their practice area as part of their immunisation payment claim. This information should be submitted by 31 March 2015. These groups will be (a) 2 to 5 year old children (inclusive) not in any "at-risk" group, (b) 2 to 5 year old children (inclusive) in "at-risk" groups, (c) 6 months to less than 2 years in "at-risk" group, (d) 12 years to 17 years in "at-risk" group (d) 18 years to 65 years in "at-risk" group and (e) over 65 years (These will be the verified denominator figures for percentage uptake calculations and payment claims).

Claims for Payments

19. Practitioner Services Division will provide separate guidance regarding claims including claim forms
20. Any necessary variation for local circumstances, outwith the arrangements under the national programme, should be agreed between NHS Boards and Local Medical Committees (LMCs).

Action

21. NHS Boards are requested to action this guidance and ensure that their primary medical services contractors are aware of it.
22. GP practices must ensure that they use the “new” vaccine stocks” of vaccine and ensure that unused stock from the previous year is disposed

Enquiries

23. In the instance for any enquiries on this circular please contact Frank McGregor

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D Thomson', written over a horizontal dashed line.

DAVID THOMSON
Deputy Director, Primary Care Division

Payment Arrangements – Directions to Health Boards

The Scottish Ministers give the following Directions to Health Boards.

1. Contractors who have entered into an arrangement with a Health Board as part of that Health Board's Influenza and Pneumococcal Immunisation Scheme will be reimbursed in accordance with the paragraphs below.
2. Payments applicable to GMS contracts are set out below.
3. Influenza for those aged 65 and over:
 - If up to or equal to 40% of the over age 65 group who are on a contractor's Influenza, and Pneumococcal Scheme Register as referred to in paragraph 5(2)(a) of the DES Directions 2014 has been immunised, a contractor will qualify for a payment of £7.17 per immunisation;
 - If more than 40% and up to or equal to 75% of the age group has been immunised, a contractor will qualify for a payment of £8.85 per immunisation;
 - If more than 75% of the age group has been immunised, the contractor will qualify for £9.39 per immunisation.

These different payment rates will apply to all immunisations given, not just those above the threshold.

4. Influenza for those in other target groups:
 - a flat fee of £7.67 will be paid per immunisation
5. Pneumococcal immunisation for those aged 65 and over
 - a flat fee of £7.67 will be paid per immunisation
6. Childhood Influenza
 - a flat rate of £7.67 will be paid per dose and totalling £15.34 per course, where two doses are needed (at risk children under 9 years of age who have never received influenza vaccination, and healthy children under 9 years of age who have never received influenza vaccination and require the injected, inactivated vaccine)

Payment Verification

Prior to issuing payments in accordance with the above, Health Boards must require contractors and providers who have entered into an arrangement with a Health Board's Influenza and Pneumococcal Scheme in terms of the DES Directions 2014 to sign a declaration to confirm that they are meeting the requirements of the DES Directions 2014.