

Population Health Directorate
Primary Care Division



Addresses

For Action

Chief Executives NHS Boards
Chief Officers for Health and Social Care Partnerships
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 August 2017

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\(M\)\(2016\)12](#).
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\(2017\)11](#) was issued on 3 August 2017 and contains clinical arrangements for the Seasonal Influenza Programme.
5. CMO letter [SGHD/CMO\(2017\)12](#) was issued on 3 August 2017 and contains clinical arrangements for the Childhood Influenza Programme.

Background

6. The current Directions requiring Boards to set up an Influenza and Pneumococcal Immunisation Scheme were issued on 5 September 2016.
7. In year one of the childhood flu programme all 2 and 3 year old 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.

8. In year two 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 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.
9. In year three all pre-school children aged 2 to 5 years, including “at-risk” children in this age group, born between 2 September 2009 and 1 September 2013 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.
10. In year four all pre-school children aged 2 to 5 years, including “at-risk” children in this age group, born between 2 September 2010 and 1 September 2014 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 and any primary school child (aged 4 to 11 inclusive) who missed their school vaccination (regardless of whether they were classified as ‘at-risk’ or not).
11. **This circular provides details of the 2017-18 childhood flu programme (year five),** that will formally commence on 1 October 2017. Contractual arrangements apply from 1 August 2017.
12. Children to be offered the childhood flu vaccination by GP practices include:-
 - all pre-school children aged 2 to 5 years, including “at-risk” children in this age group, born between 2 September 2011 and 1 September 2015.
 - any primary school child (aged 4 to 11 inclusive) who misses their school vaccination (regardless of whether they are classified as ‘at-risk’ or not)
13. GP practices continue to be responsible for providing vaccination for children with “at-risk” conditions aged from 6 months to less than 2 years.
14. GP practices also continue to be responsible for vaccinating all “at-risk” children of secondary school age (12 to 17 inclusive). Children born between 1 March 2005 and 28 February 2006 will normally enter secondary one in 2017/18.
15. 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).

A central letter will be sent via SIRS to call/recall all children aged 2-5 for vaccination.

There is no change to the pneumococcal vaccination arrangements.

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

16. Contractors will be expected to offer immunisation against pneumococcal infection to patients if they are aged 65 years or over.
17. For influenza, contractors will be expected to offer immunisation to the following groups, as set out in the DES Directions 2017:
 - 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 2014 and on or before 1 September 2015;
- Aged 3 years: all children born on or after 2 September 2013 and on or before 1 September 2014;
- Aged 4 years: children born on or after 2 September 2012 and on or before 1 September 2013 **who are not yet attending primary school**;
- Aged 5 years: children born on or after 2 September 2011 and on or before 1 September 2012 **who are not yet attending primary school**;
- Aged 12 to 17 years and in a clinical “at-risk” group listed in the Schedule. Children born between 1 March 2005 and 28 February 2006 will normally enter secondary one in 2017/18;
- Aged 5-11 years who did not receive the vaccine at school, whether in an “at-risk” group or not.
- 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

18. 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;
- People with morbid obesity – ie, BMI ≥ 40

Mop Up Arrangements

19. GP practices will again offer vaccination to any primary school-aged child resident in Scotland at the time of the immunisation programme (aged 4 to 11 inclusive) who was not vaccinated during their local school immunisation session

Timing

20. Contractors are required to deliver the influenza immunisation programme between 1 August 2017 and 31 March 2018 but are asked to concentrate the programme before the end of November to maximise the timely immuno-protection of eligible individuals.

21. 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

22. 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.
23. GP Practices are requested to send to Practitioner Services Division (PSD) a single figure for the total number of patients (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 2018. 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 2 years (exclusive) in "at-risk" group
 - d) 12 years to 18 years (exclusive) in "at-risk" group
 - e) 18 years to 65 years (exclusive) in "at-risk" group

PSD will include patients 65 years and over for the verified denominator figures for percentage uptake calculations and payment claims.

Claims for Payments

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

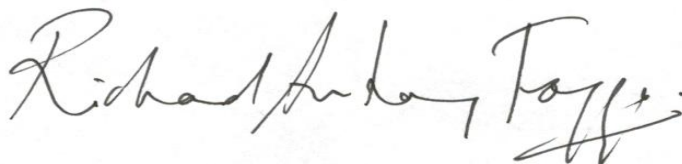
Action

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

Enquiries

28. In the instance of any enquiries on this circular please contact Michael Taylor.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Richard Andrew Taylor'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small flourish at the end.

Deputy Director and Head of Primary Care Division

Annex A

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 2017 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)
 - an additional fee of £2.12 will be paid per immunisation for the national mop up arrangements.

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 2017 to sign a declaration to confirm that they are meeting the requirements of the DES Directions 2017.