

To: All Practices in Surrey & Sussex LMCs

7 March 2022

Dear Colleagues

Seasonal NHS Influenza (Flu) Campaign 2022/23 : Update

I am writing to all colleagues to provide an update on the Seasonal Flu programme for 2022/23.

I enclose an important communication from NHS England which describes:

- Those vaccines which will be reimbursable under the NHS for the programme
- Those cohorts which will be included

This follows recommendations from the JCVI [Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation]. Practices should note there are two cohorts which were included in the 2021/22 Seasonal Flu campaign which are **not** included in next year's NHS eligibility; rather surprisingly, this includes those aged 50-65.

The LMC appreciates many practices will have ordered stock to include this cohort and practices should check their supplier(s) contract arrangements to confirm any changes that can be made, following this announcement, which is dated 2 March 2022.

The letter also indicates:

- Recommendations for:

Those aged 65 and over
aQIV/QIVr
and QIVc (only when aQIV and QIVr are not available)

Those adults 18-64 at risk, including pregnant women
QIVc/QIVr
and QIVe (only when QIVc and/or QIVr are not available)

- There are no plans for Central Stock purchases or supplies for 2022/23
- NHSE may run national call/recall campaigns, but these do not replace (and it is hoped will be co-ordinated with) GP practice arrangements and deliveries.
- As usual, eligible children vaccine supplies will be via ImmForm and are not reimbursable.

Local Medical Committees for
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- There are incentives for flu vaccination uptake within both QOF, and, for PCVs as an aggregate outcome of individual practices, the IIF [Investment and Impact Fund].
- There will also be, as usual, a separate Flu Contract for Community Pharmacists; once announced the LMC will link with the Local Pharmaceutical Committee to ensure alignment of any overlaps between these two contracts.

What is not yet known is the contractual arrangements for the campaign; colleagues will recall this is normally a stand-alone DES, but this was substituted for an Enhanced Service to align the Flu and Covid Vaccine Programmes. The current Covid Vaccination Enhanced Service is being extended after March, but again, the contractual vehicle and extent to which the two programmes will be delivered together in September 2022, and whether they will be practice-based or PCN based, or a discretionary combination of the two, is uncertain. Clearly, practices should anticipate being a key part of the Flu programme whether or not they choose to have a role in any Covid Vaccination Programme: no details of any Autumn/Winter Covid Vaccination Programme have yet been announced.

I appreciate given colleagues' workload this coming Autumn/Winter can seem a distant horizon and of course there are significant unknowns over the next six months, but this update describes the current position.

Once details of the Contract(s) for both vaccination programmes are announced the LMC will circulate an update.

With best wishes



Dr Julius Parker
Chief Executive