

To all Surrey and Sussex practices

4th October 2018

Dear Colleagues

Important Update: Flu Immunisation Season 2018/19

I am writing to colleagues to draw attention to an important update from Public Health England.

There is now an opportunity to order additional aTIV [Fluad] if further practice stocks are required; please see the attached Seqirus order form.

Before this opportunity was available, colleagues were advised that they could now obtain stock from local Community Pharmacists and other practices; hopefully, with the opportunity to place orders directly, this route will not be required, but if it is used colleagues should note the guidance in the attached form, which conforms with the advice provided by the MHRA.

Colleagues should also note that PHE have provided advice in terms of individuals who have been given the "wrong" flu vaccine, essentially, QIV in the > 65 year cohort. Although colleagues should ensure they read the advice in full, such patients can, after counselling, be offered the recommended vaccine for their age group.

I hope this further updated information will be helpful.

This further guidance adds, in my view, weight to the LMCs previous advice that, at present, the circumstances outlined by NHS England which would justify the immunisation of > 65 year olds with Quadrivalent vaccine do not currently apply and therefore practices should not do so, until further advice is available.

I would also like to remind colleagues of the importance both the LMC and LPC attach to appropriately professional relationships between GP colleagues and Community Pharmacists; if you have concerns about, for example, the promotion to patients of the opportunity to receive immunisation at a Community Pharmacy, communications from Community Pharmacists, or comments that may imply receiving a vaccination via a Community Pharmacist is "lessening the load" on General Practice, please contact the LMC in the first instance. The LPC has provided similar advice to Community Pharmacy colleagues should they believe they have any similar concerns.

Local Medical Committees for
Croydon, Kingston & Richmond, Surrey,
East Sussex and West Sussex

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NB: For London Practices [in Croydon, Kingston and Richmond]

This documentation applies but please ignore any reference to Public Health England South East or NHS England South (South East)

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'JP' followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr Julius Parker
Chief Executive

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