



To: All Practices in Surrey & Sussex LMCs

23 August 2021

Dear Colleagues

Flu Seasonal Immunisation Programme 2021/22

We are writing to all practices and pharmacies following discussions between Surrey and Sussex Local Medical Committees [LMCs] and Local Pharmaceutical Committees [LPCs] regarding the 2021/22 seasonal flu vaccination programme.

Both Community Pharmacy and General Practice teams have been delivering flu vaccination services for many years now under national commissioning arrangements. This year's flu programme will be closely linked with the Phase 3 Covid19 Booster programme. Most GP practices will be participating in the Covid 19 Phase 3 Booster delivery via local Collaborative Groups of practices, usually following a PCN footprint. Across the Surrey, Sussex and SW London area, a number of Community Pharmacy sites will also be contributing to the Phase 3 programme. Further details are awaited in terms of co-delivery of both vaccines, the Booster Covid19 vaccine(s) to be used, and their portability.

More details of the programme are available in the SSLMCs Flu Guide, available via the LMC website at www.sslmcs.co.uk, and at

[Surrey & Sussex LMCs: *NEW* Seasonal Flu Planning Guide 2021/22 \(Version Three\) \(sslmcs.co.uk\)](http://www.sslmcs.co.uk)

Working Together and Joint Incentives

Both Representative Committees encourage GP and CP colleagues to work together to ensure a maximum uptake of flu vaccination in their communities. As last year, there are now joint incentives via the PCN Impact and Investment Fund (IIF PRO1 Indicator) and the Pharmacy Quality Scheme [PQS] respectively. These include an expectation that Community Pharmacy PCN Leads will engage with PCN Clinical Directors to encourage joint working, and an IIF Indicators Target of 70 - 77% vaccination uptake for patients aged 65 and over, a key point is that this IIF target threshold represents an aggregate uptake level in this cohort, regardless of where the patient was immunised.

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

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Last year the national uptake in patients aged 65 and over was over 80%, a record and above the WHO aspiration of 75%. Colleagues will be aware the eligibility for NHS Flu vaccination has widened this year, as in 202/21, to include all patients aged 50 to 64.

Although uncertainties remain in terms of co-delivery of the Flu and Phase 3 Booster programme, NHS England has encouraged early planning for flu clinics as normal for both Contractor Groups, commencing on 1 September, in line with scheduled flu vaccine delivery plans.

Promotion of Immunisation Services

GP practices and Community Pharmacy colleagues are equally at liberty to advertise and promote their immunisation services and the Committees encourage you to do so. However, the LMCs and LPCs urge colleagues not to express this in ways that undermine each other's professionalism in the eyes of each other and our patients.

Colleagues should also note that each year there are differences in the scheduled delivery times of vaccine stock to General Practices and Community Pharmacies, even within the same area, and each contractor is free to start their flu vaccination programme to align with their stock delivery arrangement.

There are currently no plans in place for a central supply of flu vaccine for either contractor group: if you are running low on stock, and local enquiry isn't helpful, please contact the CCG (via your local contract manager) who may be able to facilitate identifying available spare stock.

Notification Arrangements

In line with the national service specifications, Community Pharmacies should ensure prompt and accurate electronic transfer of information about patient vaccination to their registered NHS practice. Community Pharmacies across Surrey, Sussex and Kingston and Richmond will be using PharmOutcomes or Sonar IT systems to record and transmit vaccine notification.

GP practices will receive the full details of the vaccination including Read Codes, in a PDF document via NHSmail or MESH and can add any additional information to the patient record manually as appropriate. Some GP systems can receive structured information, which means details can be added directly to a patient's GP record, without having to transcribe the information manually.

GP practices should ensure they monitor these communications on a regular basis; they should not be used for clinical queries.

Residential and Care Homes

Within both contractor Enhanced Services specifications, GP practices and Community pharmacies can vaccinate residents of care and residential homes, and their staff. There is likely to be close co-ordination between the Flu and Phase 3 Booster immunisation programmes for such eligible cohorts.

This means Community Pharmacies and GP practices should ensure delivery of such immunisations is planned jointly taking into account historic arrangements, especially where vaccine stock has already been allocated to such residential/care homes by a provider, and capacity issues that may exist.

The LMCs and LPCs are committed to such close working and to resolving any difficulties that may arise during the programme; all colleagues and their teams have worked dedicatedly to provide patient care throughout the pandemic and should be proud of their achievements.

Please use the contact details below in the event of any queries.

With best wishes

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