



Daily Update

Thursday 22nd October 2020

This daily update contains important information for community pharmacy teams about the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In today's update: access to Government flu vaccine supplies; new patient comms on flu vaccinations.

Community pharmacy access to the Government flu vaccine stock

This year the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has secured an additional supply of flu vaccines. Most of these supplies are not stock that would ordinarily be available in the UK, as they are the result of vaccine suppliers running their production cycles for longer than they had originally planned. As a consequence of this, these extra vaccines will be delivered from the start of November through to the end of December.

PSNC is continuing to work with DHSC on the details of how community pharmacies will be able to access vaccines from this central backup stock. We expect this guidance to be released shortly and PSNC is continuing to stress the urgency of the details being confirmed so that contractors can plan and manage their vaccination programmes across November and December.

GPs received details of their ordering systems on 9th October, but like community pharmacies, they will have to await delivery of the stock in November. DHSC confirmed in that guidance: "A pre-set proportion of this additional stock will also be made available to Trusts and community pharmacy, and the arrangements for them to order against this stock will be confirmed shortly."

Community pharmacy contractors will have fair access to the DHSC centrally procured stocks and PSNC will ensure further details are published as soon possible.

New patient comms on flu vaccination

PSNC has also produced a poster and social media resources outlining the phased approach for this year's flu vaccination programme.

The messaging reflects the increased demand already seen and is part of wider PSNC communications planning to ensure that patients, the media and MPs are aware of the pressures that pharmacies are facing at the moment and to give a clear expectation of what people can expect from pharmacies throughout the winter.

[Flu Vaccination Service poster – A Phased Approach](#)

Download the social media resources from: psnc.org.uk/flupatientcomms

Have you seen our latest FAQs?

PSNC's website has a large number of answers to queries posed by pharmacy contractors, their teams and LPCs; these are updated on a regular basis. Recent additions include:

Q. I have not yet received my supply of aTIV for this season or I have run out of aTIV and cannot obtain any further stock. Can I vaccinate people aged 65 years and over with QIVc instead?

The NHS guidance and the PGD require contractors to offer aTIV vaccination to people aged 65 years and over. The guidance and PGD also say QIVc is suitable for use in this age group if aTIV is not available or is not suitable due to egg allergy. The preference however, is for this group of patients to be offered aTIV, because it is considered to be more effective than standard dose non-adjuvanted trivalent and egg-based quadrivalent influenza vaccines.

If aTIV will be available in the near future or is available from other local pharmacies or the patient's general practice, it would clinically be more appropriate for them to access aTIV from another provider.

Any use of QIVc in this patient group, when aTIV is available elsewhere in the area or when the pharmacy will receive supplies of aTIV in due course, would need to be with the patient's informed agreement that QIVc is being used instead of aTIV and with the pharmacist having made a professional judgement that administration of QIVc is in the best interests of the patient at that time.

If no aTIV is available and it is unlikely that further supplies will be available, the general use of QIVc in this patient group would then be appropriate.

Keep up-to-date on COVID-19 with our hub page: psnc.org.uk/coronavirus

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