

To all practices Surrey and Sussex LMCs

30th November 2018

Dear Colleagues

Season flu programme 2018/19 update: Update

Colleagues may be under the impression there is little more than can be said regarding this year's programme. However, additional guidance is now available from NHS England/Public Health England. Arguably the most impractical is the advice to CCGs that they can act as a kind of clearing house for "spare" aTIV supplies for both GP practices and Community Pharmacists. Realistically it is difficult to envisage how this proposal can be managed successfully, and practices may more usefully, in terms of overall uptake, focus on inviting patients who have not yet been immunised or who postponed immunisation because of the delayed delivery of vaccine, to attend for vaccination. Local Community Pharmacies with continuing aTIV stock availability can also be signposted to patients.

Ordinarily practices would return unused vaccines to the manufacturer but do not need to do so until February 2019. This stock cannot, however, be reused and so is effectively no longer available. This means GP practices should contact CCG Flu Leads to advise of surplus aTIV stock as an alternative to returning it, if other informal inter-practice routes are not used instead. Exchange arrangements, whether organised by practices or by the CCG, must ensure a continuous cold chain that can be documented.

NHS England has also updated its guidance for the 2019/20 flu season, and I enclose this letter. Both the current vaccines (aTIV and QIV) will be available next year, however, because a second QIV has been recommended for next year, this year's QIV will be known as QIVe (cultured on eggs) and the new quadrivalent vaccine will be known as QIVc (cultured on mammalian cells). QIVc is suitable for both patients aged between 18 and 64, and for those over 65. A high dose trivalent vaccine (TIV-HD) is also being recommended as suitable for those over 65. However, marketing authorisation is awaited for QIVc and TIV-HD.

This means, in summary, the JCV1 recommendations for the 2019/20 season are:

Patients aged 65 and over

- aTIV which is currently licenced
- QIVc {which are not currently licenced, but this is expected in
- TIV-HD {December 2018

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

The White House T: 01372 389270
18 Church Road F: 01372 389271
Leatherhead
Surrey KT22 8BB www.sslmcs.co.uk

Patients aged 18 to 65 in clinical at-risk groups

- QIVe which is currently licenced (and is referred to as QIV in the current 2018/19 season)
- QIVc which is not currently licenced, but this is expected in December 2018

NHS England will be writing again once licencing is confirmed, and list prices agreed, however is currently recommending practices consider commencing ordering currently licenced vaccines for next year's season, noting eligibility for reimbursement is not yet confirmed for other vaccines.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julius', written in a cursive style.

Dr Julius Parker
Chief Executive

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