

To: All Practices in Surrey and Sussex LMCs

23 September 2019

Dear Colleagues

Seasonal Influenza – Immunisation of GP Practice Staff

I am writing to all colleagues to highlight arrangements for the NHS England recommended seasonal flu immunisation of practice staff. As has been discussed quite widely, such immunisation is **not** covered within the state indemnity scheme, the CNSGP. As with a number of other recent issues, this is being raised by GPC with both NHS England and NHS Resolution, who administer the CNSGP.

In the interim, the three main indemnity organisations have suggested practices contact their practice indemnity insurer as the administration of flu vaccine in these circumstances may be covered by arrangements already in place; the LMC suggests this should be confirmed by all practices who may wish to immunise staff directly.

The following options are available to practices:

- All staff with a clinical condition which makes them eligible for the NHS national seasonal influenza vaccination programme should be encouraged to attend their registered GP practice (or a community pharmacist) to obtain this immunisation. As of course you may not be aware whether or not staff are eligible, this should be given as generic advice.
- Some GP practices may have commissioned an Occupational Health Service for staff; if this offers seasonal flu immunisation, this service can be used.
- Practices can adapt the national PHE PGD and named nurse/s within the practice can then vaccinate practice staff; a GP within the practice needs to sign the PGD and thereby assume responsibility for this administration. The PGD is available below:

<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/writteninstruction-for-the-administration-ofseasonal-flu-vaccination/>

Practices would need to ensure:

- A record of the immunisation is kept
- Encourage the staff member involved to share this information with their registered GP and obtain consent to do so.

Local Medical Committees for
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East Sussex and West Sussex

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- Ensure confidentiality of the staff members' clinical information, enquired about during the immunisation process

In terms of the above option the LMC advises indemnity is confirmed beforehand.

- Practices could offer to pay for privately obtained flu immunisation from another provider.
- A GP in the practice could generate a Patient-Specific Direction (PSD) for each staff member to be immunised; again, indemnity arrangements should be confirmed beforehand.

Locum GPs are eligible for influenza immunisation via their registered GP under the 2019/20 DES.

I hope this background is helpful; clearly a comparatively minor change in the DES eligibility criteria would avoid this issue in forthcoming seasons, as NHS England are aware.

With best wishes

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

Dr Julius Parker
Chief Executive