

To all practices in Surrey and Sussex LMCs

Dear Colleagues

DHSC arrangements for GP practices to access additional flu vaccines

I enclose a letter which details the arrangements the DHSC has put in place to enable practices to order additional flu vaccines. Colleagues should read this letter carefully and in particular Appendix B, which relates to financial arrangements, and Appendix C, which is a declaration all practices will need to make if they order DHSC stock.

GP practices will only be able to order DHSC stock once their own stock supplies are depleted; DHSC supplies are not designed to 'top up' a situation in which pre-ordered supplies are temporarily interrupted. DHSC supplies will be available in November, from four potential suppliers. Colleagues should note vaccines should only be ordered in anticipation of demand from current eligible patients under the seasonal flu DES and that until the Government announces it, patients in the 50 – 64 year old age cohort are not yet eligible under the DES.

Practices will be able to claim the usual £10.06 Item of Service fee, for each eligible vaccination given, but no other reimbursements. The vaccines are free.

The DHSC will carefully monitor practice orders and it may be that, depending on demand, additional constraints will be imposed; practices should note that they can only order up to 1000 vaccines in any one order, ideally not ordering more frequently than fortnightly, and in total should not order more than 10% of their total registered list [Paras 9 and 10 of the letter] It is also anticipated no DHSC stock should be returned.

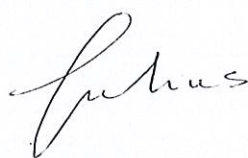
Current seasonal flu DES reimbursement arrangements continue to apply for any non-DHSC ordered vaccine supplies.

The declaration (Appendix C) practices will be required to sign is part of the post payment verification (PPV) process.

The NHRA (Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency) has agreed a dispensation that, if necessary, will allow practices, with appropriate safeguards in place, to move vaccines between practices and, for example, Community Pharmacists.

Colleagues should read the accompanying letter for full information; there are some FAQs at the end of the letter but if colleagues have any queries please contact Sarah Parsons at the LMC Office on Sarah.parsons@sslmcs.co.uk

With best wishes



Dr Julius Parker
Chief Executive

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