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By email

1<sup>st</sup> February 2017

Email: [Deborah.tomalin@nhs.net](mailto:Deborah.tomalin@nhs.net)

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Dear Colleague,

**Re – Cost of Quadrivalent Flu Vaccines for ADULTS for 17/18 Flu Season**

I understand that some pharma companies are actively promoting for 17/18, their quadrivalent flu vaccine to practices as a more effective vaccine, and that they have attended a number of practice managers forums for that purpose.

The Green Book currently says that the quadrivalent vaccine is ‘preferable’ all things being equal, but it is not mandated for the adult programme. The quadrivalent vaccine has a higher cost than the trivalent vaccine and this would add significant cost pressures to the prescribing budget across the South East.

The advice we have received from the national team is that there is minimal evidence of cost effectiveness.

Our local prescribing budgets have not been adjusted to take account of the additional costs for quadrivalent vaccines and in the absence of analysis that demonstrates better use of NHS resources, NHS England South (South East) and local CCGs are not therefore able to justify funding it for adults.

In the absence of robust evidence to prove superiority, the local CCGs and NHS England South (South East) are advising that prescribers should select the product with the lowest purchase price to the NHS and not purchase the quadrivalent vaccine for adults.

Should this advice change in future, we will notify you.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation in this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Deborah Tomalin,  
Head of Commissioning  
NHS England South (South East)



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c.c.

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