

To: All GP Practices in Surrey and Sussex LMCs

12th April 2017

Dear Colleagues

Use of Quadrivalent Flu Vaccines for Adults during the 2017/18 flu season


I am writing as the LMC has received a number of queries from practices in terms of using quadrivalent flu vaccines for the 2017/18 flu season. This is in the context of the letter of 1st February from NHS England South (South East) to all practices advising that practices should select the vaccine with the lowest purchase price to the NHS and should not purchase the quadrivalent vaccine for adult use.

The LMC (and, locally, NHS England) is aware that the Green Book states that the quadrivalent vaccine is "preferable", all things being equal, but it is not mandated for the adult flu programme and such NHS reimbursement would create a significant cost pressure to the prescribing budget. The LMC has been passed advice provided to NHS England indicating a challenge to this decision is considered unlikely.

The LMC has discussed this issue with James Thallon (Medical Director) NHS England South (South East) who has confirmed the advice to practices of 1st February remains in place; practices should not order the quadrivalent flu vaccine for adult use. If any practice has done so **and is unable to change their order**, could they contact me at (julius.parker@sslmcs.co.uk) confidentially.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely



Dr Julius Parker
Chief Executive

Local Medical Committees for
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