



Community
Pharmacy
North
Yorkshire

Media Release

For Immediate Release

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NHS flu jabs once again available from North Yorkshire local community pharmacies

Local community pharmacy teams in North Yorkshire from Friday 1st September begin offering free NHS flu jabs following last year's successful national pharmacy flu vaccination scheme. Nearly 600,000 people chose to have their flu jab administered in a community pharmacy during 2015/16.

Once again all adults aged 65 years and over, and those aged 18 years or over and in clinical risk groups, can receive a free of charge NHS flu jab at community pharmacies across North Yorkshire, often without the need for an appointment. People in at-risk groups include pregnant women and those with certain medical conditions including asthma and diabetes. Pharmacists will be providing the same flu vaccination as those offered by GPs and patients can be assured that their GP practice will be notified that they have been vaccinated.

NHS flu vaccination services provided by community pharmacists have shown that the convenience of pharmacy's walk in service gives the NHS benefits in increasing uptake of the vaccine in eligible groups of people and helping meet World Health Organisation vaccination targets. Patients have been overwhelmingly positive in their feedback on the pharmacy services in the past.

Community pharmacists in 7,195 pharmacies across England provided 595,467 flu vaccinations to patients under the national NHS Flu Vaccination Service in 2015/16. On average, 83 vaccinations were carried out by each participating pharmacy, although two pharmacists greatly exceeded this by completing over 1,000 NHS flu vaccinations each.

Paul Brett from Monkbar Pharmacy, York said:

"As a community pharmacist I am really excited about the start of this year's Flu Vaccination Service. I have been offering vaccinations and other public health services for several years and my patients have been extremely positive about these. There is so much that community pharmacists and their teams can do to help people with their medicines and their health.

Community pharmacies are the most accessible healthcare locations; we offer convenient access to medicines and a range of services without the need for an appointment. This will be of particular value in flu vaccinations, where we can really help the NHS to meet its vaccination targets. In 2015/16, more than 60% of all community pharmacies in England provided the national service to

almost 600,000 people. This shows that patients value the convenience of being able to choose to have their NHS flu vaccination from their local pharmacy.”

Shaun Davies Community Pharmacy North Yorkshire Committee Member said:

“Community pharmacy provision of NHS flu vaccinations this flu season means that once again many eligible adult patients will have greater access to this service. Many people may choose pharmacy because they are unable to attend GP clinics due to factors such as their work hours and because they can visit pharmacies in a variety of locations and without the need to book an appointment.

Community pharmacists are looking forward to providing the service and we are keen to work with colleagues in general practice to help ensure that as many eligible people as possible are vaccinated this year.”

Notes for Editors

Further information about NHS flu vaccinations

More details on the annual programme for flu vaccination is included in the annual flu letter: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-plan-winter-2016-to-2017>

Additional background information on pharmacy flu vaccination schemes is available in PSNC’s briefing: <http://psnc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/PSNC-Briefing-034.15-Community-Pharmacy-Flu-Vaccination-Advanced-Service.pdf>

Further information about community pharmacy

Community pharmacists are regulated healthcare professionals. Their training includes a four-year degree along with a year working in practice followed by examinations. Pharmacists are experts in medicines and are regulated by the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC). There are around 11,700 community pharmacies in England and in 2015/16 at least 7,195 (60.9%) of these were known to have signed up to provide the national Flu Vaccination Service after their pharmacists undertook the required training.

More than 99% of people living in areas of the highest deprivation are within a 20 minute walk of a community pharmacy. Around 99% of community pharmacies in England now have private consultation rooms. Pharmacies use these to provide a range of public health and other services including services to help people to get the most benefit from their medicines and to lead healthier lives.

Contact

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