

# Media Release

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## For Immediate Release

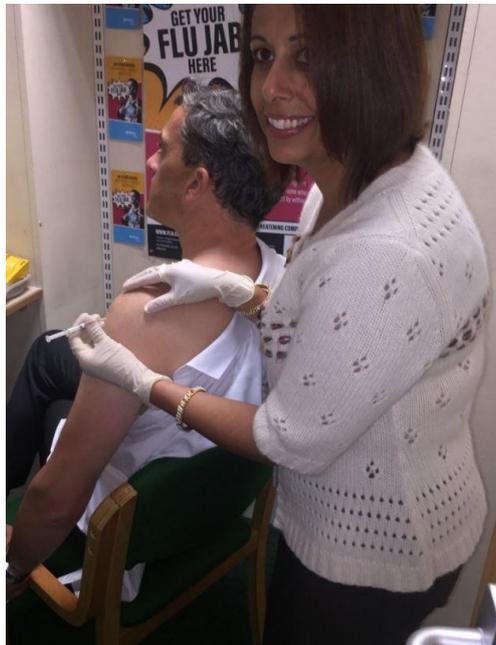
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30<sup>th</sup> September 2016

### **SKIPTON AND RIPON MP JULIAN SMITH VISITS HIS LOCAL PHARMACY TO SEE AND PROMOTE THE NATIONAL PHARMACY FLU VACCINATION SERVICE**

**12.15pm, Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016, Pateley Bridge Pharmacy, 25 High Street, Pateley Bridge, HG3 5AL**

During Julian's visit he learned more about the national pharmacy flu vaccination service. The service aims to make it easier than ever to get a flu jab and to increase the number of 'at risk' people across England being protected from ill health over the winter months.



*Julian Smith MP with Samina Khan, Pharmacist at Pateley Bridge Pharmacy*

Julian Smith MP commented: "This is an excellent Community Pharmacy NHS service and so accessible, with no appointments required. We all visit pharmacies frequently and I urge all

my constituents who are eligible for a free flu jab to ensure they have one. As winter draws nearer, many people will suffer with ill health, especially older people aged 65 and over, and adults with certain medical conditions, who can benefit from the NHS flu vaccination service. The scheme will help protect people from health complications through the winter months”.

Pharmacist Samina Khan at Pateley Bridge Pharmacy commented: “We are very pleased to once again be offering the NHS community pharmacy flu vaccination service, which is available in Pateley Bridge, again this year. It is a great opportunity for more ‘at risk’ people to have their vaccination, protecting them during the winter. The NHS is acknowledging the essential role that community pharmacies play in delivering flu vaccinations and we look forward to helping the NHS protect more people this year.”

The FREE national pharmacy flu vaccination service commenced again this year on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016.

All adult patients who are eligible for NHS flu vaccinations will be able to have them free of charge at local community pharmacies in North Yorkshire.

Flu vaccinations are vital to protect people who would be at risk of health complications if they caught the virus and the NHS aims to vaccinate at least 75% of people who are considered to be in at risk groups. These include pregnant women, people aged 65 years or over, and people with certain medical conditions.

North Yorkshire Pharmacists are trained healthcare professionals and many have been providing flu vaccinations for over five years, both privately and as part of local NHS services.

The introduction of a national community flu vaccination service proved to be very popular with patients. Community Pharmacies in North Yorkshire are sure that they will increase those taking advantage of the service this year, and protect more vulnerable people from serious illness or early deaths.

Julian Smith MP is the latest of all 8 North Yorkshire MPs visiting their local Community Pharmacy to promote the FREE national pharmacy flu vaccination service for vulnerable patients.

- Rachael Maskell MP - Whitworth Chemists, York
- Andrew Jones MP – Lloyds Pharmacy, Harrogate
- Rishi Sunak MP - Village Pharmacy, Catterick
- Julian Sturdy MP - Boots, Haxby, York
- Kevin Hollinrake MP - Becks Pharmacy, Thornton Le Dale
- Julian Smith MP - Pateley Bridge Pharmacy, Pateley Bridge
- Nigel Adams MP - Milford Pharmacy, South Millford
- Robert Goodwill MP - Boots Pharmacy, Whitby

#### **About the Pharmacy Flu Vaccination Service:**

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 the country, 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 (see the full list at <http://tinyurl.com/WhoGetsFlu>). Pharmacists will be using the same vaccination as those offered by GPs and they will be required to notify GPs when they have vaccinated patients.

**End**

#### **For further information contact...**

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#### **Editor Notes**

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 152 Community Pharmacies in North Yorkshire. Ninety-five percent of the North Yorkshire population live within a 10 minute drive of a Community Pharmacy, and the vast majority of these have private consultation rooms. Pharmacies use them 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.

Eligible adult patients are people aged 18 years and over at the time of vaccination. They include:

- people aged 65 years and over (including those who will become aged 65 years by 31 March 2016);
- pregnant women;
- carers;
- those in long-stay residential care homes;
- people aged from 18 to less than 65 years of age with one or more of the following medical conditions:
  - chronic (long-term) respiratory disease, such as severe asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or bronchitis;
  - chronic heart disease, such as heart failure;
  - chronic kidney disease at stage three, four or five;
  - chronic liver disease;
  - chronic neurological disease, such as Parkinson's disease or motor neurone disease, or learning disability;
  - diabetes;
  - splenic dysfunction; or
  - a weakened immune system due to disease (such as HIV/AIDS) or treatment (such as cancer treatment).