

Briefing for pharmacies: Health and Social Care staff influenza programme, Oct 2018

Inclusion of health and social care workers in the national seasonal influenza programme

The national flu programme has been extended to include:

- Health and social care staff, employed by a registered residential care/nursing home or registered domiciliary care provider, who are directly involved in the care of vulnerable patients/clients who are at increased risk from exposure to influenza. Vulnerable means those patients/clients in a clinical risk group for flu or who are aged 65 years and over.
- Health and care staff, employed by a voluntary managed hospice provider, who are directly involved in the care of vulnerable patients/clients who are at increased risk from exposure to influenza. Vulnerable means those patients/clients in a clinical risk group for flu or who are aged 65 years and over.

Some staff will already be eligible for a free vaccination by being in [one of the defined risk groups](#).

NYCC is encouraging all staff meeting this criteria to access the vaccine from a pharmacy or GP. Care home managers are also being encouraged to link with interested pharmacies to invite them into team meetings to vaccinate staff at care home premises.

The requirements of the national programme are that staff need to show their ID badge to prove eligibility. For staff not eligible through the national programme the following voucher scheme has been put in place:

North Yorkshire County Council influenza Voucher Scheme for other Health and Adult services (HAS) staff

A scheme has been running for a number of years where Health and Social Care staff not eligible for the national programme can download a voucher and take it to a pharmacy signed up to NYCC's approved provider list to receive a free flu vaccine. Originally all pharmacies delivering the service were asked to "self-certify" that they had a PGD in place, this was completed by ticking a box on PharmOutcomes to being able to claim for the vaccine through the system. To streamline this process a NYCC PGD has been developed to save pharmacies having to develop their own PGD.

Once pharmacies have signed the PGD they can start to claim through Pharmoutcomes for the vaccine. PharmOutcomes has been updated to capture that the pharmacy has signed up to the PGD and a declaration that they are competent to deliver the flu vaccination in line with best practice and the PGD.

The scheme has been extended to include all HAS staff not just front line workers, and staff will be required to download a voucher that must be signed by their manager.

Action required: Pharmacies wishing to participate in the NYCC staff influenza programme through the approved provider list should sign and return a copy of the PGD to carly.walker@northyorks.gov.uk or Public Health Team, NYCC, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD.

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