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| **NHS England (****North East and Yorkshire)**  **Yorkshire and the Humber Flu Programme 2022-23** |
| **Frequently Asked Questions & Answers** |
| **This is a live document and will be routinely updated. This document can only reference national policy or local commissioning arrangements. The intention is to circulate FAQs regularly. Please note that this is not an NHS England policy document; formal policies, which are worked through NHSE/DHSC Gateway will be sent to you directly. This document is a reference tool to help support local providers and stakeholders and is an effort to share questions that we receive.** |
| **This document & any information provided herein is guidance only. All information is given in good faith and is accurate at the response date listed in this document. Information may be superseded by later versions; therefore, please ensure you read/review all questions to ensure you are receiving the most up to date information. The commissioning team believe the content of this to be correct at the date of issue.**  **Updates are shown in yellow.** |

| **No.** | **Question** | **Answer** |
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|  | **A: Guidance / Legislation on delivery models** | |
| A1 | What National guidance has been issued for 22-23 National Influenza (Flu) Programme so far? | [The Flu letter](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1070494/Tripartite-annual-flu-letter-2022-to-2023.pdf) gives details of the Flu programme for 2022 to 2023 including eligible cohorts and recommended vaccines.  [Statement of amendments to annual flu letter](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-flu-immunisation-programme-plan/statement-of-amendments-to-annual-flu-letter-21-july-2022)  - amendments to the national flu letter with additional cohorts – please note date restrictions for eligibility.  [The Flu reimbursement letter](https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/B1868_Reimbursable-vaccines-and-eligible-cohorts-for-the-2022-23-NHS-Seasonal-Influenza-flu-Vaccination-Progra.pdf) – Flu vaccination programme information on the reimbursable and recommended vaccines and eligible cohorts.  [Flu : Information for healthcare practitioners](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1097483/Flu-information-for-HCPs-2022-to-2023.pdf) - information about the Flu programme 2022 to 2023. This will be updated with any new information that becomes available as the flu vaccination season progresses. The final section of this document provides additional information and advice on common issues that may be encountered whilst delivering the flu immunisation programme |
| A2 | Where can I find the GP Enhanced Service specification (ESS)? | [ESS: Flu](https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/B1984-Seasonal-influenza-vaccination-2022-23-enhanced-service-specification-for-GPs-26-September-2022.pdf) - Enhanced Service Specification seasonal influenza vaccination programme 2022/23  [ESS: Childhood Flu](https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/B1773-ess-childhood-influenza-vaccination-programme-22-23.pdf) - Enhanced Service Specification childhood seasonal influenza vaccination programme 2022/23  [Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Collaboration Agreement](https://www.england.nhs.uk/london/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2022/08/PR1876_Influenza-vaccination-prog-22-23-ESS-influenza-vaccination-collaboration_August-2022.pdf)  Additional [flu guidance](https://www.england.nhs.uk/gp/investment/gp-contract/) has also been published to support commissioners and general practice delivering flu vaccinations for 2023/24 on how to record flu vaccinations, claiming payments and additional collaboration requirements for those practices who wish to collaborate to deliver flu-only clinics. |
| A3 | What will the pharmacy delivery be for 22/23? | [Community pharmacy advanced service - Seasonal Influenza 2022-23](https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/B1774-community-pharmacy-advanced-service-seasonal-influenza-vaccination.pdf) |
| A4 | Who can deliver under a PGD - can this be extended to ALL Healthcare Professionals?  Where are the PGDs and the national protocol?  The PGD for inactivated influenza says v11.00 not v11.00a on the Practitioner Authorisation Sheet. Can this still be used? | The list of Health Care Professionals who can deliver under the NHSE Commissioned Flu Services PGDS 2022/23 are documented in the Flu PGDs This list cannot be extended to other healthcare professionals  The [National protocol for inactivated influenza vaccine](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-protocol-for-inactivated-influenza-vaccine) is for the administration of inactivated influenza vaccine by appropriately trained persons.  Further detail can be found at: [Patient Group Directions-Patient Specific Directions,](https://www.cqc.org.uk/guidance-providers/gps/nigels-surgery-19-patient-group-directions-pgdspatient-specific-directions) [Doctors, Dentists and use of PGDs](https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/doctors-dentists-and-use-of-pgds/)  All current PGDs and the National Protocol are accessible on the following website  [PGDs Yorkshire and the Humber](https://www.england.nhs.uk/north-east-yorkshire/our-work/information-for-professionals/pgds/)  The PGD has been signed by a doctor and pharmacist so it is legally valid. The footer on page 18 has the correct version number. If the practitioner authorisation sheet is being printed, then the letter ”a” can be added after “v11.00”. |
| A5 | Will the National Booking System / service this be available for booking flu vaccines this year? | [National Booking System](https://digital.nhs.uk/coronavirus/vaccinations/booking-systems/national-booking-service) -The central team are carrying out a ‘proof of concept’ exercise. This will include all community pharmacies across England, who are approved to deliver COVID vaccines and ALL community pharmacies in the North West. This option is available to any of the eligible cohorts. |
|  | **B: Vaccine characteristics, supply, movement, delivery** | |
| B1 | Can Injectable (inactivated) vaccine be given to children whose parents refuse on the grounds of porcine? | Appendix D of [The Flu reimbursement letter](https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/B1868_Reimbursable-vaccines-and-eligible-cohorts-for-the-2022-23-NHS-Seasonal-Influenza-flu-Vaccination-Progra.pdf)  [Vaccines and porcine gelatine](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vaccines-and-porcine-gelatine/vaccines-and-porcine-gelatine)  Flu vaccination for healthy children and children in clinical risk groups is recommended to be given in a nasal spray called **Fluenz® Tetra**: there is no equivalent vaccine and the nasal vaccine is considered the best option/gives the best protection. If the child is an at risk group and they choose not to have the nasal spray due to concerns about the pork gelatine (porcine) or cannot have it for medical reasons, then they should have an inactivated flu vaccine by injection. Where parents of healthy children have concerns about use of pork gelatine in medical products, they are advised to discuss this with their **vaccination provider** (GP, Practice Nurse or School Immunisation Team). If parents of healthy children still decline on the grounds of Porcine, the alternative injectable flu vaccine can be offered. Practices **and school aged immunisation services** should ensure they have a stock of injectable flu vaccines that do not contain pork gelatine, these are free to order from ImmForm. - [The Flu reimbursement letter](https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/B1868_Reimbursable-vaccines-and-eligible-cohorts-for-the-2022-23-NHS-Seasonal-Influenza-flu-Vaccination-Progra.pdf) |
| B2 | Can the nasal spray be used for people with learning disabilities where it would be difficult for them to receive the injection?  Can LAIV be used for patients with a needle phobia? | Yes - Practices are advised of the importance to ensure patients with a learning disability are vaccinated and make the necessary reasonable adjustments. See [Flu programme: Information for healthcare practitioners](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1097483/Flu-information-for-HCPs-2022-to-2023.pdf) and [Flu vaccinations; supporting people with learning disabilities](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccinations-for-people-with-learning-disabilities/flu-vaccinations-supporting-people-with-learning-disabilities)  Patients with a learning disability are included in the eligibility for payment under the [ESS: Flu](https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/B1984-Seasonal-influenza-vaccination-2022-23-enhanced-service-specification-for-GPs-26-September-2022.pdf) – Annex C.  GP’s can use their clinical discretion to offer LAIV ‘off-label’ under a PSD (from their centrally supplied vaccine stock) to patients with a needle phobia. This is not limited to those with a learning disability and may include those in a clinical risk group with a serious needle phobia who may otherwise go unimmunised if they refuse to have an injected inactivated vaccine. This is considered a reasonable adjustment. Nothing has changed in terms of the licensing of the product, and it would not be eligible under the PGD, but is referenced in the PGD and can be given ‘off label’ using a PSD. |
| B3 | Is the flu vaccine suitable for vegetarians and vegans? | Page 17 of [Flu : Information for healthcare practitioners](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1097483/Flu-information-for-HCPs-2022-to-2023.pdf) gives information on Influenza vaccine and its components.  The vaccine SPC (Summary of Product Characteristics) also provides the composition for each vaccine (see link).  [Home - electronic medicines compendium (emc)](https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc)  Where it is known that there are animal derivatives/excipients etc then it is a personal choice. |
| B4 | Can flu vaccinations be moved between GP practices? | The MHRA issued the Human Medicines (Coronavirus and Influenza)(Amendment) Regulations 2022 No 350. There has been an amendment that provided an extension to the exemption until 2024, details are below.  Amendment to regulation 19 (exemptions from requirement for wholesale dealer’s licence) 4.  In regulation 19(4D)([1](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.legislation.gov.uk%2Fuksi%2F2022%2F350%2Fregulation%2F4%2Fmade%23f00007&data=05%7C01%7Cwendy.watson1%40nhs.net%7C320d2099a9af4f31bc1a08dac96a53f2%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C0%7C638043755749410492%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2FA3hrUs6iRoBaH52Wu0VHfK4M69S52gBydusofBc4ds%3D&reserved=0)), for “2022” substitute “2024”.  Further information can be found: [https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2022/350/regulation/4/made](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.legislation.gov.uk%2Fuksi%2F2022%2F350%2Fregulation%2F4%2Fmade&data=05%7C01%7Cwendy.watson1%40nhs.net%7C320d2099a9af4f31bc1a08dac96a53f2%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C0%7C638043755749410492%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=IaKp%2BlsrGnehV0dAciR%2FqWjEAPORWb%2FVv2g1uMq205c%3D&reserved=0) to confirm, the sharing of flu vaccine between practices remains within the regulations. |
|  | **C: Care Homes** | |
| C1 | Can practices immunise the care home staff they are linked to, to prevent too many people going into the home and also improve staff uptake, can GP claim for these vaccines? | Yes – please refer to  [ESS: Flu](https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/B1984-Seasonal-influenza-vaccination-2022-23-enhanced-service-specification-for-GPs-26-September-2022.pdf) |
|  | **D: Health and Social Care Workers** | |
| D1 | Peer-to-peer vaccination:  Can the Written Instruction used to support peer to peer vaccination be extended to include other registered clinicians (e.g. Pharmacists), as this posed a problem in acute trusts where Occupational Health is external to the trust? | The [Written Instruction for the administration of seasonal ‘flu vaccination](https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/written-instruction-for-the-administration-of-seasonal-flu-vaccination/)  has been updated for 2022-23 |
| D2 | Staff Vaccination  Can GPs claim for vaccinating their own employed staff?  Can we vaccinate and claim for other primary care staff eligible for vaccination? | * Staff vaccination (including non-clinical staff directly involved with the provision of NHS services on a day to day basis who have face to face contact with patients) remains the responsibility of the employer.   Practices **cannot** claim for vaccinations administered to their staff (unless in one of the eligible groups). However the 2022-23 general practice [Enhanced Service Specification](https://www.england.nhs.uk/gp/investment/gp-contract/) for the Seasonal Flu Programmes has been updated to include/provide a legal framework for the provision as part of general practice’s Occupational Health responsibilities to offer eligible frontline patient-facing staff a flu vaccination under the Clinical Negligence Scheme for general practice (CNSGP).  No:  For the 22/23 season, primary care staff/services (general practice, dental, ophthalmic and pharmacy) are **not** included in the national flu programme cohorts eligible for free flu vaccine.  This was a change to the 21/22 season, where in September 2021 the national flu vaccination programme was extended (through additional funding) to include eligible primary care contractors. |