

To:  
GP Practice Managers

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**Dear Colleague**

**Extension of NHS seasonal influenza vaccination programme 2017-18**

NHS England recently announced that in the 2017/18 flu season it will support the delivery of flu immunisation for social care workers that offer direct patient care. This letter sets out how the scheme will operate and provides detail on a new GP enhanced service that will be available to your practice if you wish to participate

**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, meaning those patients/clients in a clinical risk group or aged 65 years and over will be eligible for the new scheme.**

This scheme is intended to complement, not replace, the occupational health schemes already put in place by employers to support flu vaccination in 2017-18.

As part of the extension of seasonal influenza vaccination, we are putting in place a new GP Enhanced Service (ES) to allow practices that sign up to deliver this scheme. This ES will be delivered by GP practices alongside community pharmacies registered to deliver the seasonal flu vaccination advanced service.

We plan to send the Enhanced Service Specification to you as soon as it is available and we would ask you to return your signed acceptance form as soon as possible after that to enable you to deliver this service. In the meantime, please note the following:

- The eligible social care workers will need to take appropriate confirmation of their eligibility to a GP or pharmacy that is delivering this service. The specific requirements will be confirmed in a future communication.
- If a social care worker is also eligible because they are aged 65 years or over, pregnant, or in a clinical risk group they should be immunised under the standard seasonal flu directed enhanced service (DES)
- A revised PGD that includes this new eligible group will be available

- If they are not in one of these groups and are being immunised as a social care worker only, Read Code 9OX4. should be used to record vaccination activity under this ES
- CQRS will be used to monitor services and calculate payments under this ES
- Practices participating in the ES will need to indicate acceptance on CQRS to enable CQRS to calculate payment of achievement
- Payment is available to participating GP practices under this ES as an item of service payment of £9.80 per dose to eligible patients.

Flu is a serious illness in vulnerable people, potentially causing deaths and complications such as pneumonia. We would ask you to encourage all eligible patients and social care workers to take up the offer of immunisation to protect themselves, their families and the vulnerable people they care for. Flu outbreaks can cause severe disruption to health and social care services in the winter months.

We will communicate with you further as details of the scheme are confirmed. Thank you for your support

Yours sincerely



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