Dear Colleagues

**Update on vaccines for 2019/20 seasonal flu vaccination programme**

This letter follows on from the letter sent by NHS England, Public Health England and the Department of Health and Social Care on 20 November 2018:


As stated in the previous letter, the vaccines recommended for the 2018/19 season continue to be recommended for the 2019/20 season. Both are currently licensed and available to order for use in the United Kingdom:

- The standard egg cultured **quadrivalent inactivated vaccine (QIVe)** will continue to be recommended for 18 to 64-year olds in clinical at-risk groups and other eligible groups, including frontline health and social care workers.

- The **adjuvanted trivalent inactivated vaccine (aTIV)** will continue to be recommended for individuals aged 65 years and over.

In addition, the **cell grown quadrivalent vaccine (QIVc), Flucelvax® Tetra**, is now licensed for use in the UK for patients aged nine years and upwards. The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) considers that QIVc is equally suitable to:

- Quadrivalent inactivated vaccine (QIVe) for those aged 9\(^1\) to 64 years in clinical at-risk groups and other eligible groups, including frontline health and social care workers. Both QIVe and QIVc are preferable to standard egg based inactivated trivalent vaccines (TIVe).

- Adjuvanted trivalent vaccine (aTIV) for individuals aged 65 years and over, which is preferable to standard egg based inactivated trivalent and quadrivalent vaccines (TIVe/QIVe) on the grounds of both clinical and cost-effectiveness.

The **high-dose trivalent vaccine (TIV-HD)**, which JCVI also advised as equally suitable for use in those aged 65 years and over, has now been licensed for use in the UK but has a significantly higher list price than the equally suitable vaccines. This vaccine will not be

---

\(^1\) All vaccines for those aged under 18 years will continue to be procured and supplied by Public Health England.

**Providers should order currently licensed vaccines, aTIV, QIVe and QIVc for the 2019/20 season for their populations in eligible groups. These three recommended vaccines will be eligible for reimbursement by NHS England.**

Please see **Annex A** for a summary table and information on vaccine cost.

Yours faithfully

[Signature]

Professor Stephen Powis  
NHS England  
National Medical Director
### Annex A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Suitable for use in clinical at-risk / eligible adults under 65 years</th>
<th>Suitable for use in adults 65 years and over</th>
<th>Licensure status</th>
<th>Recommended by NHS England</th>
<th>NHS Cost per dose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standard trivalent vaccines (TIVe)</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>Licensed</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard egg-grown quadrivalent vaccines (QIVe)</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>Licensed</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>Products available at £8.00 and £9.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjuvanted trivalent vaccine (aTIV)</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>Licensed (for those aged 65 years and over)</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>£9.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cell-grown quadrivalent vaccine (QIVc)</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>Licensed (aged 9 years and over)</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>£9.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-dose trivalent vaccine (TIV-HD)</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>Licensed (for those aged 65 years and over)</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>£20.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Prices and suppliers of the vaccines can be found here: [https://bnf.nice.org.uk/medicinal-forms/influenza-vaccine.html](https://bnf.nice.org.uk/medicinal-forms/influenza-vaccine.html).

We would ask providers to be cognisant of the relative costs to the NHS of the range of vaccines available in the market when ordering vaccines for the 2019/20 season.