

DHSC Additional Stock – Reminder and FAQs

In order to support the expanded vaccination programme, the Department has secured an additional supply of influenza vaccines, to top up local supplies once they run low.

Please note that the stock arrives during **October, November and December**.

Stock can only be ordered for eligible groups which currently does not include the 50-64 year old cohort. This cohort will be eligible later in the season (further guidance on this is expected soon). The key message regarding this cohort is that additional stock will be available at the end of November and into December, so when guidance is released on when vaccinations for this group can commence, bookings and orders can be planned accordingly.

GP practices will be provided the DHSC vaccines free of charge but will only be able to claim an Item of service fee for each DHSC supplied vaccine that is administered.

The majority of the additional DHSC stock will arrive from **November onwards**, and GP practices will be able to access this only once their own local stocks are depleted. The MHRA has granted a dispensation to allow movement of vaccines locally between practices and other NHS provider organisations. You may wish to liaise with other providers within your Primary Care Network about what stocks are available elsewhere. The DHSC supply should only be used when there are no other alternative options to accessing more vaccines.

DHSC stock is available for GP practices to order from 4 different suppliers, across different products. This ensures that there are sufficient vaccine supplies to cover the extension to the flu programme and mitigate the risks to overall supply if there are serious problems with the delivery or manufacture of one of the products. You should follow JCVI guidance and use the recommended vaccines for each cohort as set out in the Second Annual Flu Letter.

Practices should assess if there is a need for further flu vaccines by assessing current and expected uptake rates in eligible cohorts (taking into account booked clinics) compared with your current vaccine supply (including ensuring that you have received all of the vaccines you have ordered from suppliers for each eligible cohort). You will not be able to use DHSC stock until all of your other orders have been received and used.

Once all orders (from usual suppliers) have been received and used, and additional stock from all other possible sources (other providers within your PCN may have surplus stock) have been identified and allocated and you have confirmed appointments and cannot take any more bookings for one or more eligible cohorts, you can place an order for DHSC stock.

You should only be using DHSC stock to vaccinate patients once you have used and/or committed **all** of your locally procured stock to booked appointments for that cohort. DHSC stock is not to be used to manage temporary shortages for a particular cohort, e.g. to tide you over until you receive a further delivery of local stock from suppliers.

Ordering process:

- If possible, contact your usual supplier first (assuming they supply the particular vaccine you require).
- To access DHSC stock, you will need to sign two self-certification declarations:
 - 1) to manufacturers before they can access stock
 - 2) to NHS Business Services Authority (acting on behalf of NHSEI) at the end of the season as part of the post-payment verification process.
- Practices will be required by each manufacturer for every order they make to self-certify that:
 - a) You have allocated all of the locally procured flu vaccines and any DHSC flu vaccines you have previously ordered, including any vaccines yet to be delivered, for the cohort that you require additional vaccine for.
 - b) You agree not to return any of your local stock order for those cohort(s) to manufacturers, as DHSC stock is only to be used after all of your local stock for a particular cohort has been exhausted.
 - c) You will only use DHSC stock to vaccinate those patients who fall into eligible groups included in the national flu immunisation programme, as set out in Appendix A of the national flu immunisation programme 2020 to 2021- update
 - d) You will claim the correct fees for DHSC flu vaccines, which is only the specified Item of service fee and not for reimbursement of the vaccine cost.
- Practices will be asked to sign a declaration to this effect before the order for DHSC stock can be processed.

Table showing vaccines available from each manufacturer and date of **first** availability.

Manufacturer	Product	Vaccine type	Ovalbumin content micrograms/dose	Expected first deliveries to DHSC	Min order	Max order
GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)	Fluarix Tetra*	QIVe (standard egg-grown quadrivalent influenza vaccine), split virion, inactivated	Equal to or less than 0.05 micrograms per 0.5 ml dose	w/c 16 th Nov	200*	1000
Sanofi	Quadrivalent Influenza vaccine	QIVe (standard egg-grown quadrivalent influenza vaccine), split virion, inactivated	Equal to or less than 0.05 micrograms per 0.5 ml dose	w/c 16 th Nov	100	1000
Seqirus	Flucelvax® Tetra	QIVc (cell-grown quadrivalent influenza vaccine), surface antigen, inactivated	Egg-free	w/c 30 th Nov	150	1000
	Adjuvanted Trivalent Influenza Vaccine	aTIV (egg-grown trivalent influenza vaccine), surface antigen, inactivated, adjuvanted with MF59C.1	Equal to or less than 0.2 micrograms per 0.5 ml dose	w/c 19 th Oct		
Mylan	Quadrivalent Influvac® sub-unit Tetra	QIVe (standard egg-grown quadrivalent influenza vaccine), surface antigen, inactivated	Equal to or less than 0.1 micrograms per 0.5 ml dose	w/c 9 th Nov	30	1000

- You should only order enough vaccines to cover your expected demand as you will not be able to return unused DHSC flu vaccines. Maximum order limits have been put in place to ensure all areas of England have access to DHSC vaccine supplies and to prevent stockpiling. Please note the minimum/maximum order sizes and the delivery times advised by the relevant manufacturer.
- You should aim not to place more than one DHSC stock order every 2 weeks.
- Practices should have systems in place to store and administer locally and DHSC supplied stock in such a way to support accurate record keeping and financial claims. These records may be required at a later date as part of a Post Payment Verification process.

Please see link below for further guidance:

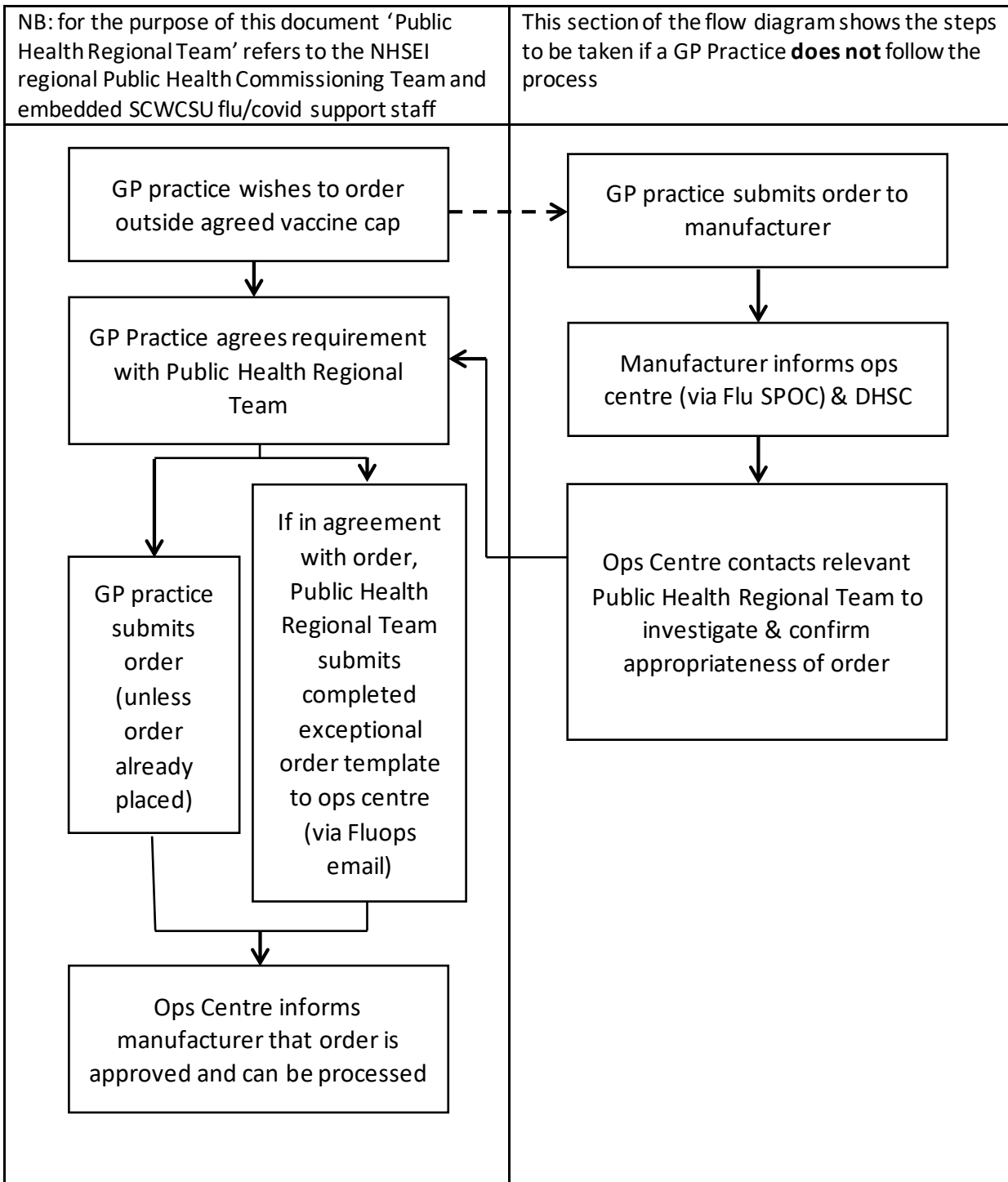
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/south/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2020/10/2020.10.09-DHSC-flu-stock-guidance-for-GPs-FINAL.pdf>

Exceptional Ordering of Vaccine Stock

An exceptional order is defined as anything outside of the minimum or maximum order for the setting (GP practice).

The flow chart and submission template outlined below sets out the process for verifying and approving exceptional orders of flu vaccine from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) centrally procured stock for the 2020-2021 season for GPs

Process to follow for a GP surgery:



For an exceptional order to be placed, the Public Health Regional Commissioning Team will require information around the reasons for ordering, which may include the following considerations:

- Confirming GP Practice size, number of patients eligible in the cohort for the vaccine ordered and numbers left to vaccinate;

- Reviewing vaccine stock availability within the PCN/ICS footprint to confirm other potential options have been exhausted;
- Substantiating evidence of the requirement to order an exceptional amount of vaccines (e.g. cold chain incident notification, local arrangement for a practice to undertake vaccination on behalf of other practices within the PCN, small rural practice requiring less than the minimum order etc.);
- Establishing that the GP Practice has capacity to appropriately maintain cold chain storage for a large volume of vaccines.
- Understanding of the appropriateness and requirements of an order below the lower threshold

If satisfied there is a need, the Public Health Regional Commissioning Team will then submit the below form on behalf of the GP practice in order to secure an exceptional order:

Submission Template

GP Practice Name	
GP Practice Code	
Vaccine Type	<i>i.e. aTIV, QIVe, QIVc</i>
Order Quantity Agreed	<i>Total order quantity agreed with practice by Public Health Regional Team</i>
Manufacturer	<i>The manufacturer the order will be placed with</i>
Reason for exceptional order	<i>Brief summary of why an exceptional order has been placed; e.g. appropriate order based on registered population and number of vaccinations already done, vaccinating on behalf of another local practice or Primary Care Network, or similar explanation if very small amount below lower threshold is ordered.</i>
Order placed by:	<i>A named contact in the practice who has place/will place the order (including email address)</i>
(if order has already been placed) Order date:	
(if order has already been placed) Order reference number:	<i>(If a GP practice has already submitted the order to a manufacturer)</i>
Approved by	<i>Public Health Regional Team member's name and job title – commissioning manager or higher. Can include screening and immunisation managers</i>

Please direct any queries relating to this guidance to:

england.swscreeningandimms@nhs.net