COVID-19 vaccination programme

Care homes: consenting

Autumn 2022

Updated July 2022
Consent process

- Given the timescales to commence a booster vaccination programme for care home residents, care home staff should start the consenting process of residents and care home staff by mid August in advance of the Autumn booster vaccination.

- Consent needs to be obtained before starting any medical treatment, test or physical investigation/examination or before providing personal care for a patient; this is standard NHS practice and is a legal requirement.

- **The Green Book** Chapter 2 provides guidance on the consent process for vaccinations and in this regard delivery of COVID-19.

- Guidance is also set out in the Roving and Mobile SOP (Section 5.1) and within the national protocol framework.

- Where it has been established that the person lacks capacity to consent, a best interests decision should be taken in line with the checklist in section 4 of the Mental Capacity Act. The decision maker should make a record of their best interests decision. If a capacity assessment is done and the decision is that the individual did have capacity to consent, this should also be documented.

- Relevant consent forms (see for care home residents and for social care staff), other supporting forms and associated information (including easy read versions) can be found on the GOV.UK website.

  These forms should be adapted locally to apply to the specific dose being administered (first, second, third, primary dose or any subsequent booster doses) being given. The current forms will not be amended.

- Consent remains valid unless the individual who gave it withdraws it. If there is new information between the time consent was given and when the immunisation is offered, it may be necessary to inform the patient and for them to re-confirm their consent.