

# South West Public Health

## Section 7a Screening & Immunisations

### Bulletin



*Issue 123: 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023*

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## ICARS Newsletter 20/01/2023

Please find this week's ICARS newsletter attached to this email.

## Flu - Antivirals

The CMO has declared that Influenza is widely circulating in England and therefore GPs can prescribe flu antivirals on an FP10. They can be dispensed from any community pharmacy that holds stock.

**When should GPs prescribe antivirals for Flu?** Indicated only for those in at risk groups  
**Treatment of individuals in the community** – recommended if Flu is suspected (particularly if COVID-19 test is negative or if symptom onset is following close contact with a confirmed case), especially if they have not had their seasonal flu vaccination, and if the onset of symptoms is less than 48 hrs ago (for oseltamivir, 36hrs for zanamivir) [extension of this period is a clinical decision].

**Post Exposure Prophylaxis of individuals in the community** – recommended if -

- i) the person has been exposed to an influenza-like illness and is able to begin prophylaxis within 48 hours of contact with an index case for oseltamivir (36 hours of contact with an index case for zanamivir) and ii) the person has not been effectively protected by vaccination

For outbreaks of suspected or confirmed Flu in a community institutional setting – [please contact the Health Protection Team](#) - Tel: 0300 303 8162

For full national guidance see [Guidance on use of antiviral agents for the treatment and prophylaxis of seasonal influenza \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/guidance/2019-03-27-guidance-on-use-of-antiviral-agents-for-the-treatment-and-prophylaxis-of-seasonal-influenza)

If you have any queries please send them to [fiona.neely@ukhsa.gov.uk](mailto:fiona.neely@ukhsa.gov.uk)

## Recording Patients Vaccination History

When a new patient registers at your practice, it is best practice to ensure any previous immunisation history is recorded accurately where known. This is particularly important for patients registering who have moved from abroad as they will not have another record in the UK which can be transferred to your practice. It is helpful to include this as part of your new patient registration process and it offers an opportunity for missing immunisations to be identified so patients can be booked in for these.

You may find the 'Vaccination of individuals with uncertain or incomplete immunisation status' resource helpful in identifying required vaccines for new patients - [Vaccination of individuals with uncertain or incomplete immunisation status - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/vaccination-of-individuals-with-uncertain-or-incomplete-immunisation-status)

## Cervical Cancer Prevention Week (23-29 January 2023)

[Cervical Cancer Prevention Week](#) is an annual campaign organised by Jo's Trust, a leading cervical cancer charity. It aims to raise awareness of, and ultimately increase uptake and coverage of the NHS Cervical Screening Programme. Ahead of this year's campaign, Jo's Trust has surveyed approximately 900 individuals working within NHS cervical screening services and plan to release their findings during the week.

Please use this week to encourage people to come forward for their cervical screening when they are invited. This includes those who may have received an invitation previously but have not yet made an appointment. There are a number of resources developed by Jo's Trust which can be downloaded and shared or printed, which can be accessed at [Cervical Cancer Prevention Week | Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust \(jostrust.org.uk\)](https://jostrust.org.uk/cervical-cancer-prevention-week). These include a new factsheet for health care professionals, alongside existing videos/resources and useful facts/figures.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your efforts in supporting this screening programme.

## Ceasing patients from NHS Cervical Screening Programme

It came to the Screening and Immunisation Team attention that some practices have been sending written requests on ceasing from NHS Cervical Screening Programme to Southgate House, Devizes. This is not a correct process and GP practices are reminded to follow the correct pathway of ceasing patients from this programme. Cease/defer forms should be completed and submitted electronically via the NHS Cervical Screening Administration Service (CSAS) online enquiry form, which can be found [here](#).

Hard copies are no longer accepted and GP practices are advised not to send paperwork requests by post.

Guidance on Ceasing and deferring women from the NHS Cervical Screening Programme are available [here](#)

## Further Information

Back issues of these bulletins and attachments are available on the NHS [England](#) website [here](#).

If you have any questions or wish to provide feedback, please contact the Integrated Public Health Team at [england.swscreeningandimms@nhs.net](mailto:england.swscreeningandimms@nhs.net)