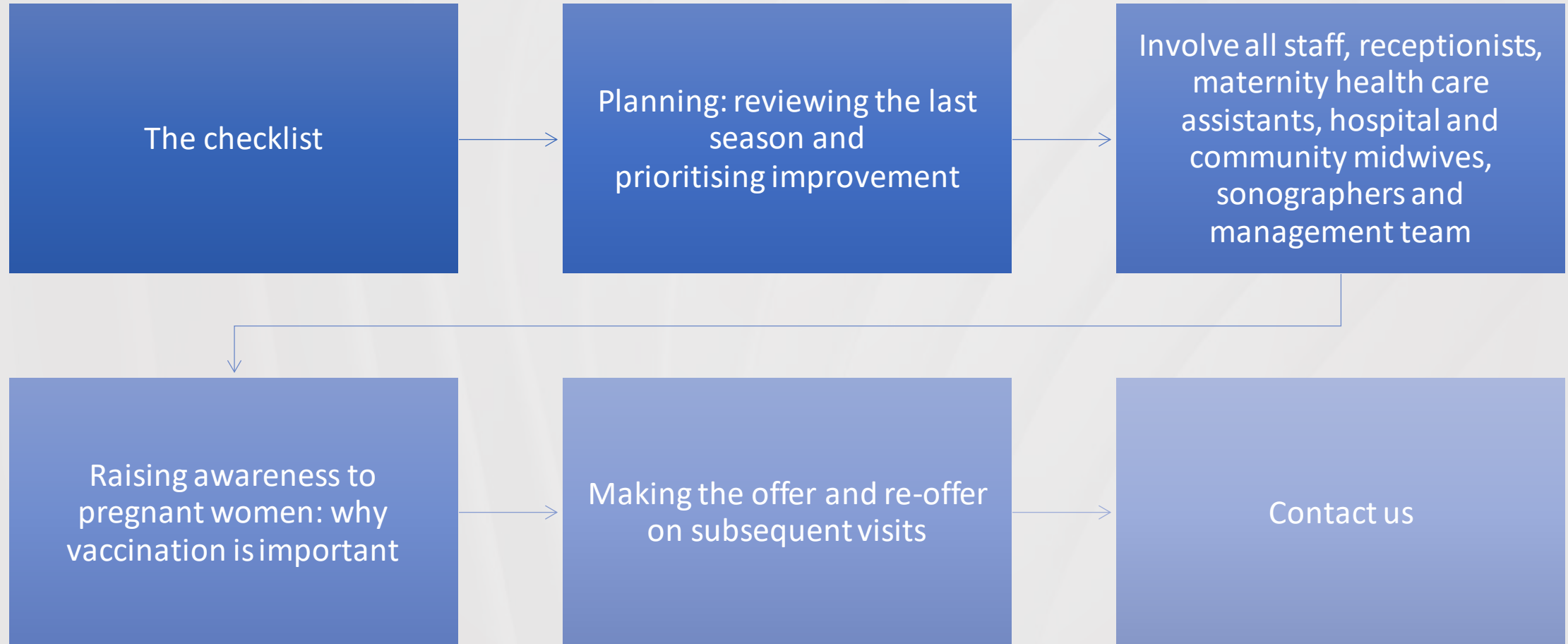


Vaccines in Pregnancy – Influenza Checklist

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Vaccines in Pregnancy Checklist - Contents



The Checklist

- **Have a lead midwife responsible for the vaccines in pregnancy programme** – this is your advocate and go to person for vaccines in pregnancy
- **Ensure you have sight of the enhanced service specification for delivering flu and pertussis**-Check your contracts team have received the offer from NHS England and have signed up to deliver to vaccines in the maternity setting
- **Plan your model of delivery**- When and where are you offering flu and pertussis vaccination (pertussis vaccination given from 16 weeks, flu anytime in pregnancy in flu season Sept-March)
- **Train your staff**- On delivering immunisations and the benefits of protecting themselves and their baby from flu and pertussis

The Checklist

- **Offer vaccination at every visit to antenatal clinic/scan/day assessment-** have you had your flu/pertussis vaccination yet?
- **Notification to GP**– have a mechanism to notify the woman’s GP, either by letter or electronic transfer, so the GP can update the woman’s records
- **Complete data reporting templates-** to return to NHS England for payment of vaccines given
- **Notify staff of the number of vaccines given throughout flu season/ every month for pertussis-** to encourage promotion of vaccinations to pregnant women and improve uptake

Reviewing last season

- **Check your uptake figures** on flu and pertussis and see how you did last year.
- **Identify what went well and where you could improve** – for example, was it helpful offering flu vaccine at the booking appointment or is it easier after the 12/20 week scan. Is it available for women attending day assessment unit
- **Set a higher goal for uptake** than you achieved in the previous season. Get your team involved and try and increase uptake on the previous year

Involving all staff

- **Your staff are key to a successful flu and pertussis programme.**
- **Make sure all staff in all roles understand the importance of the vaccine programmes** and the impact that flu and pertussis can have on pregnant women.
- **All staff should be advocates for vaccination.**
- Make sure non-clinical staff know where they can **signpost women** for more information on the flu and pertussis vaccination.
- **Keep staff enthused during the season** – consider an incentive promoting staff /department competition.

What is the flu? Why are pregnant people at risk?

- Influenza – also known as the ‘flu’ – is a highly contagious respiratory illness, which spreads easily through the air or when people touch contaminated surfaces.
- Flu viruses mutate very rapidly, and uncontrolled spread gives rise to many different strains, which fall into 2 main types affecting humans – influenza A and influenza B.
- In many cases the disease is mild, with symptoms such as chills, fever and fatigue, and it can also be spread through asymptomatic infections in people who do not even know they are sick.



The risks of flu during pregnancy

- The flu can also result in serious complications, The most common complication is pneumonia, typically caused by a secondary bacterial infection.
- Pregnant women and their unborn children are at high risk of morbidity and mortality from influenza infection.
- One in eleven maternal deaths during 2009-12 were caused by influenza.
- Pregnancy alters how the body handles infections such as flu.
- Think about psychological impact on mum

Benefits of the vaccine

- Reduce their risk of serious complications such as pneumonia, particularly in the later stages of pregnancy.
- reduce the risk of mother or baby needing intensive care
- reduce the risk of the baby being stillborn or premature
- reduce the chance of the mother passing infection to her new baby
- help protect their baby who will continue to have some immunity to flu during the first few months of their life

Maximising vaccination uptake

Make every contact count

- Ask about vaccines at every stage
- Offer brief advice and opportunity to ask questions
- Normalise vaccines-offered as part of routine care
- Signpost to reliable sources of information
- Particular support for those with co-morbidities or overweight/obesity
- Appropriate information - Translated leaflets, BSL, Braille, easy read versions
- Use of translators for vaccine conversations



Tips on talking to pregnant people about vaccines.

- Listen, without prejudice.
- Be person-centred.
- Respect language and cultural diversity
- Be transparent and honest.
- Reassure women that the vaccine is safe.
- Acknowledge past experiences.
- Share information about the vaccine development.
- Give evidence-based information.
- Clearly explain the risks of contracting flu during pregnancy
- Get familiar with answers to common questions.
- Recap the main points you gave to answer any questions.

Training and resources for healthcare professionals

- Healthcare practitioners should refer to [the influenza chapter](#) in 'Immunisation against infectious disease' (the 'Green Book') for further detail about clinical risk groups advised to receive flu immunisation and advice on contraindications and precautions for the flu vaccines.
- Information for healthcare practitioners about the childhood flu programme and the inactivated flu vaccines, and links to an flu vaccination training slide set and the flu vaccination e-learning programme will be available on the [Annual flu programme webpage](#) and the [e-learning for healthcare Flu Immunisation web page](#).
- UKHSA will develop PGDs that will be available prior to commencement of the programme at [Immunisation patient group direction \(PGD\) templates](#) and [Community Pharmacy Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Service](#). A [national protocol for inactivated flu vaccines](#) will also be available.

Reporting suspected adverse reactions

Yellow card scheme

- voluntary reporting system for suspected adverse reaction to medicines/vaccines
- success depends on early, complete and accurate reporting
- report even if uncertain about whether vaccine caused condition
- <http://mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard>
- see chapter 8 of Green Book for details
- Also report to Immunisation Clinical Advice Response Service using email england.swicars@nhs.net
- This email should also be used for any cold chain breaches, vaccination errors or queries



Resources

- NHS Choices information of whooping cough:
www.nhs.uk/conditions/Whooping-cough/
- Immunisation against infectious diseases (Green Book) pertussis chapter:
www.gov.uk/government/publications/pertussis-the-green-book-chapter-24
- Programme resources:
[www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation#pertussis-\(whooping-cough\)](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation#pertussis-(whooping-cough))
- PGD is available at:
www.gov.uk/government/publications/pertussis-vaccination-in-pregnancy-dtapipv-boosterix-or-repevax-pgd-template
- Pertussis (whooping cough) vaccination programme for pregnant women:
information for healthcare practitioners
[Pertussis \(whooping cough\) vaccination programme for pregnant women:
information for healthcare practitioners - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pertussis-vaccination-programme-for-pregnant-women-information-for-healthcare-practitioners)

Resources

- Inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) booster campaign: information for healthcare practitioners
[Inactivated polio vaccine \(IPV\) booster campaign: information for healthcare practitioners - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/inactivated-polio-vaccine-ipv-booster-campaign-information-for-healthcare-practitioners)
- JCVI updated statement on the COVID-19 vaccination programme for autumn 2022
[JCVI updated statement on the COVID-19 vaccination programme for autumn 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jcvi-updated-statement-on-the-covid-19-vaccination-programme-for-autumn-2022)
- JCVI statement on the COVID-19 booster vaccination programme for autumn 2022: update 15 August 2022
[JCVI statement on the COVID-19 booster vaccination programme for autumn 2022: update 15 August 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jcvi-statement-on-the-covid-19-booster-vaccination-programme-for-autumn-2022-update-15-august-2022)
- Clinical guidance for vaccine administration
<https://www.rcn.org.uk/clinical-topics/public-health/immunisation/practical-and-clinical-guidance-for-vaccine-administration>
- UKHSA
[Pregnant? Have your COVID-19 vaccines posters - Health Publications](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pregnant-have-your-covid-19-vaccines-posters)

Resources

- Royal College of Midwives:
[talking-to-women-about-the-covid-19-vaccine3.pdf \(rcm.org.uk\)](#)
- Royal College of Midwives:
[Vaccine facts – RCM](#)
- World Health Organisation & UK Government:
[A Social Media Toolkit for Healthcare Practitioners](#)
- Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, The Royal College of Midwives, UK Teratology Information Service, and MacDonald Obstetric Medicine Society:
[www.rcog.org.uk/covid-vaccine](#)

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