

# South West Vaccination & Screening Team

## Section 7a Bulletin

  
South West Collaborative  
Commissioning Hub



*Issue 160: 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023*

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## ICARS Newsletter

Please note the ICARS newsletter is now circulated fortnightly. The following issue will be included in next week's bulletin.

## Vaccinating Eligible Patients (Routine Vaccinations – Section 7A and Flu Vaccinations)

Many thanks to all for the hard work which is taking place across the South West to ensure our populations are immunised to give them the best protection against vaccine-preventable diseases. From recent queries and incidents raised to us across the South West region we wanted to share the following learning and guidance.

Please be reminded that all general practices should only offer vaccines as part of the routine UK schedule (under Section 7A) to those in eligible cohorts as outlined in the following national guidance:

- [UK immunisation schedule: the green book, chapter 11 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-immunisation-schedule-the-green-book-chapter-11)
- [Complete routine immunisation schedule - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/complete-routine-immunisation-schedule)
- Flu 23/24 Season:
  - [National flu immunisation programme 2023 to 2024 letter - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/letters-and-communications/national-flu-immunisation-programme-2023-to-2024-letter)
  - [NHS England » Seasonal influenza service specifications and collaboration agreement](https://www.nhs.uk/england/seasonal-influenza-service-specifications-and-collaboration-agreement)

**General Practices should not offer and/or administer vaccinations for free or privately to any patients who are deemed not eligible for the vaccine** as per the above guidance.

Vaccines can only be offered and/or administered to patients who are not within the defined eligible cohorts **if** there a clinical judgement had been made that the patient should be vaccinated due to their medical history and so prescribed and, if required, under a PSD.

Any patients who are vaccinated incorrectly outside of the eligible cohorts will not receive a payment or reimbursement from NHSE.

For flu, the 23/24 flu enhanced specification states ([B1984-Seasonal-influenza-vaccination-2022-23-enhanced-service-specification-for-GPs-26-September-2022.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](#) p.13):

*8.6 Practices will not be eligible for payment for the administration of influenza vaccinations outside the announced authorised cohorts unless they are able to evidence exceptional clinical circumstances requiring influenza vaccination to be administered at the request of the Commissioner (NHSE).*

If you have any further queries on this, please do not hesitate to contact us at [england.swvast@nhs.net](mailto:england.swvast@nhs.net)

## **New PGD Available for Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis and Polio (DTaP/IPV)**

**This article relates to NHS vaccinations. Please share this information with appropriate staff in your practice**

Your team can now download a new Patient Group Direction (PGD) that has been authorised for the vaccination of patients registered with NHS medical practices in the South West of England (also attached).

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/south/info-professional/pgd/south-west/downloads/>

Before staff use this, your organisation should ensure that those members of staff have signed section 7, and that this has been counter-signed by an authorising manager.

Note that PGDs can only be used as legal authorisation for administration or supply of prescription-only medicines by a **limited number** of registered health professions. Other staff that cannot prescribe will require a patient specific direction (guidance [here](#)).

**One new PGD has been authorised for a range of registered healthcare professionals to use:**

**Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis and Polio – DTaP/IPV PGD v5.00** (*Boostrix® – IPV or Repevax®*) – **valid from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023**

For the administration of diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis and inactivated poliomyelitis vaccine (dTaP/IPV) to individuals from 3 years 4 months to under 10 years of age, in accordance with the national immunisation programme in England, or for the management of

cases and contacts of diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis or poliomyelitis from 3 years of age. See Green Book ([Chapter 15](#), [Chapter 24](#), [Chapter 26](#) and [Chapter 30](#)).

### **Changes from v4.00:**

- include minor rewording of standard text, layout and formatting changes for clarity and consistency with organisation change, gateway requirements and other UKHSA PGDs
- amend NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSEI) to NHSE following completion of merger on 1 July 2022
- add facilities for management of anaphylaxis in cautions section
- add syncope (vasovagal reaction) in cautions section as per SPCs
- add individuals with HIV infections in cautions section add statement for regarding absence of reliable history for routine immunisation in dose and frequency section
- amend criteria for inclusion and doses and frequency sections stating pertussis outbreak in nurseries/schools to contacts and cases as per the guidelines
- clarify the section for management of tetanus prone wounds
- add the updated storage conditions as per SPCs
- add signposting to accessible information in written information provided
- update references

## **Confirmation of national vaccination and immunisation catch-up campaign for 2023/24**

As you are aware, practices are required to participate in a national vaccinations and immunisations catch-up campaign each year, as specified in the GP contracts.

It has been confirmed that the 2023/24 national vaccinations and immunisations catch-up campaign will once again focus on measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) and the campaign will run from November 2023 to March 2024 in two stages:

- **From November 2023 to March 2024** – practices will be required to undertake local call and recall for eligible individuals aged 12 months up to and including 5 years.
- **From January 2024 to March 2024** – practices are asked to support requests for vaccination from eligible individuals aged 6 years up to and including 25 years.

Further details can be found [here](#), but if you have any questions, please direct these to [england.pccovidvaccine@nhs.net](mailto:england.pccovidvaccine@nhs.net)

## **Further Information**

If you have any questions or wish to provide feedback, please contact the SW Vaccination and Screening Team at [england.swvast@nhs.net](mailto:england.swvast@nhs.net). Back issues of these bulletins and attachments are available on the NHS England website [here](#). **Please note that if there are no items for your information a GP Bulletin will not be circulated.**