

South West Vaccination & Screening Bulletin


South West Collaborative
Commissioning Hub



Issue 172: 9th February 2024

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VACCINATIONS:

Flu vaccination programme 2023/24 - record creation by community pharmacies using the Cegedim Healthcare Solutions Point of Care (PoC) system

The National Policy and Contracting Team has been made aware that some community pharmacies are/have been using the Cegedim Rx Point of Care system to record NHS flu vaccinations this season, their update is below. To all intents and purposes this is 'no change' for the current season. This message has been shared directly with community pharmacies and the South West Community Pharmacy Leads.

Please be aware that the Cegedim Rx PoC system is not currently under contract with NHSE for this service. As such, the Rx system does not automatically populate GP patient records and instead sends a spreadsheet style notification of all vaccinations captured to the GP practices, that requires them to update patients' records.

Please note the following:

- Cegedim Rx has not been assured by NHSE to provide their product for recording flu vaccinations for community pharmacies for A/W 2023/24;
- However, it has been agreed that it is too late in the current flu season to require community pharmacies to change from the Rx PoC system to another provider; and
- GPs have a contractual obligation to update their patient records when receiving such notifications (however those may arise).

National MMR Call/Recall Update

National MMR call and recall general practice role:

Throughout February and March 2024, NHS England is contacting children and young adults aged 6-11 years in England and 6-25 years in the West Midlands, London and Greater Manchester who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated according to NHS records. Practices should prepare to receive enquiries from their registered patients during February and March 2024 who have received a national MMR vaccination reminder, and should check immunisation records, book, and administer vaccination, if clinically appropriate. [Further information on the practice role in support of national MMR call and recall is available in Annex A NHS England » Confirmation of national vaccination and immunisation catch-up campaign for 2023/24](#)

Advance notice of the campaign:

General practice colleagues received advance notice of the national MMR call and recall campaign in November 2023 as part of information and requirements for the MMR focussed annual public health campaign, via the primary care bulletin in January 2024 and via regional communication cascades throughout January 2024. Practice Nurses received communication via national practice nurse networks in January 2024. [NHS England » Confirmation of national vaccination and immunisation catch-up campaign for 2023/24](#) and see *Primary Care Bulletin* issue 273.

Recording and coding queries:

General practice MMR vaccination records are used to identify patients for national MMR call and recall, for records to be extracted successfully by GPIT suppliers they must be coded and recorded correctly using valid SNOMED codes. General practice colleagues should ensure that vaccination records are recorded and coded correctly, a valid MMR vaccination SNOMED procedure code will allow an up-to-date immunisation status for registered patients to be available to the NHS.

If you have been contacted by your registered patients who have received a national MMR reminder saying that they/their child may not be up to date with their MMR vaccinations but you think they are, please be assured that NHS England are aware data held nationally may differ from what is held locally and continues to work with NHS services delivering vaccinations to ensure that patient records are as up to date as possible. If the registered patient is satisfied that their child is up to date for MMR vaccination and other childhood vaccinations, and the general practice are satisfied that the practice record is complete and correctly coded, then no further action is necessary. However, if during this process it is found that any MMR vaccinations are either not coded (for example saved in the record as an attached PDF) or incorrectly coded, then please take this opportunity to make all necessary corrections to the record. This will improve the accuracy of cohorts included in future national recall campaigns and will also help to improve the completeness and accuracy of local Child Health Information Service (CHIS) records.

NHS Vaccination and Immunisation Business Rules set out the SNOMED codes for MMR – [Enhanced services \(ES\), Vaccination and Immunisation \(V&I\) and core contract components \(CC\) business rules 2023-2024 - NHS Digital](#)

Please note that MMR given under the age of 1 year and doses of single measles, mumps or rubella vaccines will be discounted and may need to be repeated. Please refer to the [Green Book of Immunisation - Chapter 21 Measles](#) for further guidance.

SCW CHIS Childhood Immunisations Toolkit

The Improving Immunisation Uptake Team (IIUT) are a specialist service collaboratively working alongside the SCW CHIS team, by providing support to improve 0-5 childhood immunisation uptake rates, as well as working to reduce variation in uptake across areas, and reduce number of unvaccinated children.

The IIUT has produced a **SCW IIUT Childhood Immunisation Toolkit** providing best practice guidance for general practice staff. The document is intended as a working 'toolkit' for both clinical and administrative practice staff, it has been designed to support you with resources enabling you to take steps to improve your childhood immunisation uptake rates and meet your QOF targets.

Please note that SCW CHIS are the owners of this toolkit and that it is for use within the South West region only to assist with version control.

MMR Comms Toolkits

Please find attached a communications pack issued by the national team to support the MMR call/recall campaign. This includes messaging and visuals that can be used to target a range of age groups. This accompanies the MMR call/recall checklist for practice nurses that has already been circulated (also attached).

Please also find attached an updated version of the UKHSA measles comms toolkit, which was recently updated.

Please note that all these resources are also available on our [FutureNHS site](#).

MMR Vaccination: Update on the position for PCNs and the Network Contract DES

PCNs cannot, under the Network Contract DES, collaborate during core hours to provide routine vaccinations to their collective registered population.

However, under the [Network Contract DES](#), practices can collaborate to provide routine vaccinations during the Network Standard Hours (evenings from 6.30pm to 8pm and Saturdays from 9am to 5pm) - section 9, specifically para 8.1.7). These routine vaccination appointments can be booked in advance or on the same day. As such, a PCN can provide routine vaccinations to their collective registered patients and this would include those eligible for an MMR vaccination. The patient's registered practice would be eligible for the item of service payment and the PCN practices will need to agree how this is managed between them. Pending how the vaccination event is recorded in the patient's medical record, please note that it will be made to the patient's registered practice if picked up via GPES and if not picked up via the GPES extract than the patient's registered practice will need to raise this with the commissioner. PCNs may wish to incorporate within their Network Agreement details of the service, including information on vaccine handling.

PCNs can offer pre-booked and on the day appointments as part of enhanced access, so if a PCN would like to use a proportion of their Saturday appointments to offer and provide MMR vaccinations then they can do so under the DES. In providing a proportion of these appointments for MMR vaccinations, practices and commissioners will want to agree how much of the network standard hours can be used, bearing in mind a proportion must still be available for other activity to all patients in the PCN.

Oral polio vaccination (OPV) since 2016 guidance

We have recently noticed an increase in OPV queries being received by our Immunisation Clinical Advice Response Service (ICARS). We would like to remind settings that within the [Vaccination of individuals with uncertain or incomplete immunisation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) guidance:

'If an individual has received any Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) in another country since April 2016, these doses should be discounted as it is unlikely that they will protect against all 3 polio types. Most countries who still use OPV have a mixed OPV and IPV schedule so if sufficient IPV doses have been received for age, no additional IPV doses are needed.'

To confirm, OPV doses given before April 2016 can be counted as a suitable dose of polio vaccine. It is just OPV doses given after April 2016 which need to be discounted and repeat IPV containing vaccine(s) need to be administered.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about immunisations, please contact england.swicars@nhs.net and we will be happy to address them.

COVID-19:

No items

FURTHER INFORMATION

- If you have any questions or feedback about this bulletin, please contact the SW Vaccination & Screening Team at england.swvast@nhs.net. Back issues are available [here](#).
- For advice about Section 7A or COVID-19 vaccinations, or for support following an immunisation incident, please contact ICARS at england.swicars@nhs.net. For more information, please click [here](#).
- For general enquiries, screening related matters or Section 7A public health contracts, please contact england.swvast@nhs.net or [visit our website](#).
- For CQRS payment queries, please contact england.swcqrs@nhs.net.
- **Please note:** if there are no items for your information, a Bulletin will not be circulated.