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Operations and Information Directorate

**To: Accountable Officers and  
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Dear Colleague

### **Vaccine ordering for 2018-19 influenza season**

Today we have written to general practice and community pharmacies on vaccine use in the 2018-19 influenza season. This letter advises CCGs that any local guidance on vaccine ordering should mirror this expert clinical advice and any local CCG guidance contrary to this should be immediately withdrawn.

Advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) and from Public Health England available since October (for quadrivalent vaccine) and December (for adjuvanted trivalent vaccine), prior to ordering for 2018/19, is clear that for the 2018-19 winter season, GP practices and Community Pharmacy providers should offer:

- **The adjuvanted trivalent vaccine (aTIV) for all 65s and over.** Given aTIV was only licensed for use in the UK in August 2017, this was not an option for the 2017/18 season. However the JCVI has now provided its advice given the receipt of its UK license.
- **The quadrivalent vaccine (QIV) for 18 – under 65s at risk.** In light of an independent cost-effectiveness study into QIV undertaken by Public Health England and considered by JCVI, the Green Book was updated in October 2017 to provide the advice that QIV is the best option for 18-65 at-risk groups in the 2018/19 season.

Where CCGs issue local advice, we would expect that advice to be consistent with this clinical evidence. If current CCG advice is not consistent with that national advice we expect CCGs to amend that advice immediately, taking into account the small window of opportunity available for GPs to revise their ordering by switching to the clinically optimal vaccines that are now available. CCGs will be aware of the link with s.14R of the National Health Service Act 2006 and a duty to support improvement in quality of services.

NHS England is able to confirm that there will be additional funding available in 2018/19, to support use of adjuvanted trivalent vaccine and quadrivalent influenza vaccine and that suppliers advise they will be able to meet demand. Orders need to be placed by 29 March 2018.

Yours sincerely



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National Medical Director  
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