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# News Alert

Thursday 20th September 2018

## Appropriate use of flu vaccines (aTIV and QIV)

Over the last few days, PSNC has received many queries from contractors relating to the ordering and appropriate use of adjuvanted trivalent influenza vaccine (aTIV) and in what exceptional circumstances quadrivalent influenza vaccine (QIV) may be used in patients 65 years and over.

On Monday, we published a Briefing which summarises the different documents and news stories relating to the use of aTIV that have been published by NHS England, Public Health England and PSNC. The Briefing also explains what pharmacy contractors should do if they have no aTIV available, either temporarily or because they have been unable to obtain aTIV for the 2018/19 flu season. We strongly recommend that all pharmacists providing a flu vaccination service read this briefing.

[PSNC Briefing\\_050/18: Flu Vaccination Service 2018/19: Adjuvanted trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine \(aTIV\)](#)

### **The advice on vaccinating patients aged 65 years and over remains: no vaccine other than aTIV (Fluad) should be administered at this point in the season**

Where despite this advice, a contractor seeks reimbursement for vaccine other than the recommended vaccine choice, NHS England may make enquiries to understand how the evidence of clinical efficacy of aTIV and QIV was considered and how the clinical judgement to use the relevant vaccines was reached.

Where an appropriate clinical justification cannot be provided, NHS England may seek to take action against a contractor for breach of the terms of service for failing to provide the service and exercise their professional judgement consistent with standards generally accepted in the pharmaceutical profession.

\* except for patients with an egg allergy.

### Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee



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