

23rd January 2018

Ref PH529

To all Community Pharmacies in the Wessex area

Dear Colleague

Please see below and attached a letter from the NHS England National Medical Director regarding the purchase of flu vaccines for the 2019/20 season. Please share the letter within the pharmacy as appropriate and ensure you follow the guidance in this letter. I would draw your attention, in particular, to the final two paragraphs:

*The **high-dose trivalent vaccine (TIV-HD)**, which JCVI also advised as equally suitable for use in those aged 65 years and over, has now been licensed for use in the UK but has a significantly higher list price than the equally suitable vaccines. This vaccine will not be commissioned by NHS England or reimbursed for use in the NHS Influenza vaccination programme in 2019/20.*

Providers should order currently licensed vaccines, aTIV, QIVe and QIVc for the 2019/20 season for their populations in eligible groups. These three recommended vaccines will be eligible for reimbursement by NHS England.

The letter published today (23 January 2019), provides further information on seasonal flu vaccines for 2019/20. It follows on from the letter sent by NHS England, Public Health England and the Department of Health and Social Care to flu vaccination providers and other stakeholders on 20 November 2018.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/vaccine-ordering-for-2019-20-influenza-season-letters/>

As you are aware, seasonal flu vaccination is an important public health intervention and each year we strive to improve upon the protection it provides. We appreciate the hard work you have put into the flu vaccination programme this winter and for previous years, averting tens of thousands of hospital admissions, and saving thousands of lives every year.

Kind regards

Karen Denham

Business Support Officer – Pharmacy and Optometry Team

NHS England South Region (Wessex)

Oakley Road | Southampton | Hampshire | SO16 4GX

Telephone 0113 824 9810

Email karen.denham1@nhs.net