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To All Pharmacy Contractors in the Wessex area

Dear Colleague,

Expression of interest – Flu vaccinations in Care homes

We are seeking expressions of interest from community pharmacies to provide flu vaccinations to patients in care homes under the NHS Influenza Vaccination Advanced Service.

The context for this is that CCGs need to implement a national protocol to manage outbreaks of flu in care homes. This protocol has been agreed by the National Emergency Pressures Panel (NEPP). The protocol involves making anti-viral drugs available to infected patients and vaccination of any unvaccinated residents that have not been infected. You are being asked if you can help with the vaccination of these patients. The service would be provided under the national service and so payment and claiming would be as per usual. As you will be aware you would normally need to seek approval from NHS England **prior** to carrying out the vaccinations. However, for these particular circumstances, NHS England – South (Wessex) will grant “prior approval” for off-site vaccinations at care homes where the relevant CCG instigates the protocol at a particular care home. Please find attached the National Protocol.

To offer the service you will need to confirm that:

- the indemnity arrangements will cover your pharmacist(s) for off-site administration
- you have suitable cold chain arrangements for the transport of vaccines
- the pharmacist administering the vaccinations has a DBS certificate
- the pharmacy will need to be able to attend the affected care home promptly (within 12 hours weekdays and 36 hours weekends and bank holidays)

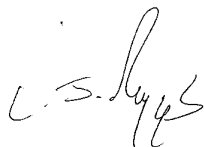
NHS England emphasises that the above arrangements will **only** apply where the protocol is instigated for a particular home by the relevant CCG. A copy of the standard request for approval to do flu vaccinations off site should be submitted to NHS England after the vaccines have been administered detailing the care home visited and the CCG who requested the service.

The process will be:

- NHS England – South (Wessex) contacts community pharmacies asking for interest in offering flu vaccinations in these circumstances.
- List of participating pharmacies shared with CCGs
- The CCG implements the national protocol and this is shared with the pharmacies that have agreed to provide the service.
- In the event of an identified outbreak of flu in a care home the CCG will contact one of the pharmacies and request they attend the relevant care home to provide off-site vaccinations under this protocol. Ideally an indication of the number of vaccinations required will be given.
- The pharmacy will agree a time to attend the relevant home and administer the vaccine to unvaccinated residents that consent to receive the vaccine
- Pharmacy completes the “request form to provide NHS flu vaccination to care home patients” retrospectively adding which CCG requested provision of the service under this protocol. Completed form is sent to NHS England – South (Wessex)
- Pharmacy submits flu advanced services payment forms to NHS BSA as per the standard process once retrospective approval has been granted. These forms must be submitted within the standard time frames.

Please could you send your expression of interest no later than 7 February 2018. england.wessexpharmacy@nhs.net any queries should be sent to the same email address.

Yours sincerely



CC: Bennett Low- Director of Assurance and Delivery NHS England (South East)
Olivia Falgayrac-Jones –Director of Commissioning NHS England (South East)
Julia Booth – Head of Primary Care NHS England – South (Wessex)
John Malley –Emergency Preparedness, Resilience & Response Manager (Wessex)
Amanda Fisk - Director of Assurance and Delivery NHS England (South West)

Attached: Protocol for Flu Vaccinations in Care Homes by Community Pharmacy