

Flu update



Londonwide LMCs

The professional voice of London general practice

NHS England London Initiatives

In London there is a big push to promote flu immunisation.

NHS England's ambition is for London to optimise vaccination uptake to beyond 75% in the at risk groups and protect frontline healthcare staff. To promote this there are two Londonwide initiatives which affect you:

1. SLA for GP practices - You will be paid if you immunise non registered patients

Did you know that there is an SLA (Service Level Agreement) in place for you to immunise non registered patients including your frontline staff?

NHS England London are keen for the flu jab to be offered to the traditionally hard to reach eligible patients such as the homeless. They are offering [an SLA](#) which pays you to jab these non-registered patients and your own staff.

2. SLA for Pharmacists - Pharmacists can give flu jabs in London

This year, NHS England London has commissioned community pharmacies across London to complement the current provision through general practice of both Influenza (inactivated) and Pneumococcal vaccinations to patients in eligible and at-risk groups. The patient cohorts for the pharmacy service include all those in the '[Green Book](#)'.

London pharmacists and their teams have been encouraged to proactively identify those who are eligible for a flu and/or pneumococcal vaccination.

After checking eligibility, pharmacists should ask if the patient has booked an appointment with their GP practice for the jab/s. If so, patients are encouraged to keep that appointment.

If not, they should be told that the service is also available from the pharmacy.

Patients may choose to be vaccinated at the pharmacy for a variety of reasons such as convenience, accessibility etc.

Pharmacy teams are also encouraged to make every contact count and as such are expected to promote their service actively by a variety of means.

Email notification from pharmacists to GP practices

To support a seamless service for GPs and pharmacists - and to ensure that patient vaccination data gets to the practice in a timely manner- pharmacists are expected to e-mail the notification of vaccination to the practice within 48 hours.

For your practice to collect the data on those patients who have been immunised by pharmacists, community pharmacies will need to download patient data to an email address for a practice inbox suitable for clinical data that is monitored regularly. To give the necessary information governance assurance, the data transfer is carried out via an IT platform managed by Sonar Informatics. Pharmacies and/or Sonar Informatics will request this e-mail address from the practice. Our advice is that you should provide it. Note that email communication was a method requested by us for the pharmacy service, and faxing the information to a practice is not a safe and viable option.

Direct Access from GP practices to Pharmacists' Data

Sonar Informatics provides a facility for practices to directly access pharmacy vaccination data for their patients.

This access is through a username and password supplied by Sonar Informatics who will explain the process that is to be used.

Many London practices have used this facility over the last two years and found it extremely useful. If you wish to find out more about this facility and/or to register for it, please contact info@sonarinformatics.com.

Excess stock

Some practices have told us that because pharmacists are offering the flu jab to their patients they find that they have vaccinations to spare. If you have spare stock you should contact Kenny Gibson (Head of Early Years, Immunisations and Military Health) at NHSE London: kenny.gibson@nhs.net.

Kenny Gibson will then find suitable unregistered patients for your spare vaccinations.

Feedback

It is intended that this flu campaign will be delivered by the supportive and collaborative working of GPs and pharmacy colleagues within localities to provide a patient-centric service. If this is not happening within your area, please let us know at Londonwide LMCs.

Also we need to know if you have any significant incidents, for example double jabbing, so we can feed these back to NHS England. Contacts are Dr Julie Sharman: Julie.Sharman@lmc.org.uk or Dr Theodora Kalentzi: Theodora.Kalentzi@lmc.org.uk.