

Flu Issue 22

South East Region

Updates for Week Ending 26 January 2024

Correction to Flu Issue 20 (Week Ending 12 January 2024)

In Flu Issue 20, under the heading of 'School Aged Children – Independent Schools and Home-schooled' the second paragraph stated that GP practices should not offer to vaccinate healthy school aged children because they are not commissioned to provide this service. To clarify, GP practices are not commissioned to vaccinate healthy children of school age against influenza, but are commissioned to vaccinate children and young people aged 14 –24 years against Meningitis ACWY, TD/IPV and HPV where they were eligible to receive the vaccination under the routine school programme but missed it. GP practices may administer these vaccinations opportunistically or if requested to do so. Please see pages 54 and 55 of the General Medical Services Statement of Financial Entitlements Directions 2003 for further information.

[General Medical Services Statement of Financial Entitlements Directions 2023 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Please accept our apologies for our initial lack of clarity.

Flu vaccination programme runs until 31 March for all eligible cohorts

Up to week 3 of 2024, in 95.4% of GP practices reporting weekly to ImmForm, the provisional proportion of people in England who had received the 2023 to 2024 influenza vaccine in eligible groups was as follows:

- 40.8% in those aged under 65 years in a clinical risk group
- 31.5% in all pregnant women
- 66.4% in all those aged 65 years and over
- 43.85% in all those aged 2-3 years

This is lower than last season and means people are left unprotected.

All eligible patient groups can be vaccinated against 'flu up until 31 March 2024.

Seasonal flu vaccination remains a critically important public health intervention and a key priority for 2023 to 2024 is to reduce morbidity, mortality and hospitalisation associated with flu at a time when the NHS and social care will be managing winter pressures whilst continuing to recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please note, according to the Enhanced Service specification, practices must submit a claim to the Commissioner (NHSE) for payment within **3 months** of the date of the administration of the completing dose of the vaccine. Clause 9.1.3. allows for vaccination of patients who present late, till the end of the season (31 March 2024), meaning final claims could be made by 30th June 2024.

Vaccine Supply

Primary care providers are reminded that vaccine supplies may be shared between contractors if they have entered into a Seasonal Influenza Collaboration Agreement or a Covid and Seasonal Influenza collaboration agreement as part of a PCN grouping. This only applies to GP practices. Outside of the above, movement of influenza vaccine must not take place under Human Medicines Regulation 19 and the enhanced service provisions.

If you have any feedback or queries relating to this communication, please contact:

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