

Flu Issue 11

South East Region

Updates for week ending 22 November

British Society for Immunology (BSI) Vaccine Resources

The BSI website has a wide selection of free, downloadable resources providing information about vaccines aimed at members of the public. The resources provide background information on immunology as well as on vaccines. There is a guide to vaccinations for people aged 65 and over explaining how vaccines work, answering common questions and explaining how the immune response changes as people get older. On the website, there is a downloadable poster that directs people to the guide using a QR code.

- [BSI Vaccine Resources](#)
- [BSI Vaccine Guide for Adults QR poster](#)
- [BSI Guide to Vaccinations for Adults August 2024](#)

Planning for 2025-2026 Season

With the publication of JCVI recommendations for the 2025/26 Autumn Covid programme, we have been receiving a range of queries regarding influenza vaccines for 2025/26.

Central Flu Supply

This is under discussion nationally in line with the national Vaccination Strategy. However, no decision has been made on this in England yet, and there are no plans to change the model for procuring vaccines for the flu programme for the 2025/26 flu season.

Ordering Flu vaccine – Recommended vaccines

The JCVI statement on influenza vaccines for 2025 to 2026 was published in July 2024. [JCVI statement on influenza vaccines for 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#). JCVI's statement sets out the preferred vaccines that should be made available to eligible people, subject to vaccine availability.

The aim of JCVI's advice is to provide a framework from which NHS England and the UK Health Security Agency can plan the ordering of vaccines and delivery of the influenza programme in 2025 to 2026.

The detail about which vaccines will be recommended for use and eligible for reimbursement in the 2025/26 season will be set out in the annual 'flu letter'. This has not yet been published.

As in previous years, providers will only be able to claim payment for flu vaccinations given and reimbursement of the costs of flu vaccine if they use the recommended vaccines in line with the authorised cohorts and timescales. This includes adhering to the guidance on using recommended first line vaccines: providers should only purchase alternative second line vaccines if all attempts to secure the recommended first line vaccines have failed. Providers may be asked to provide evidence that they have done this upon request from their commissioner.

Therefore, we recommend the following:

1. ensure that there is flexibility in any vaccine orders placed before the publication of the annual Flu letter i.e. flexibility to cancel orders that are not in line with the flu letter recommendations
2. follow any guidance issued by NHS England on which vaccines will be reimbursed, rather than that of the vaccine manufacturers, where they are not fully aligned

3. place orders with more than one manufacturer to ensure you receive at least some stock in the event that some vaccines are only available in limited quantities or batches are subject to delay due to manufacturing and/or national commissioning processes.

Programme timing

At this point, we do not know what the recommended timings for the flu programme will be. It is anticipated that the annual flu letter will specify a start date for the main programme in October, with the exact start date for the different cohorts confirmed subsequently. It is recommended that you maintain some flexibility when scheduling vaccination sessions and be prepared to reschedule if necessary to ensure that you can adhere to the programme timings and can use first line vaccines at the start of the programme.

Flu Vaccine Calculator

Wessex LMCs have produced a [Flu Calculator](#), which they have kindly allowed us to share across the region, aimed at helping practices to look at the costs and re-imburement of vaccines for the flu vaccination programme. It also takes account of income from the item of service fee for flu vaccine administration via the Enhanced Service.

The tool contains worked examples, but practices must use their own actual figures, as the sliding scale and dispensing fees will vary from practice to practice.

Please note that the tool does not take into account other costs associated with running the flu programme, such as staff pay and on-costs, premise and utility costs etc.

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

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