

SERVICE SPECIFICATION

Service:-	VOUCHER SCHEME FOR PROVISION OF QUADRIVALENT INFLUENZA VACCINE TO CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL STAFF
Implementation date:-	1st October 2018

Service Overview

This service entails providing the quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine on request to eligible Cumbria County Council staff who present at a pharmacy with a voucher entitling them to a free Influenza Vaccine. This service may be provided by any qualified pharmacy located in Cumbria. It is anticipated that the service will be made available between October and March. The Council cannot guarantee levels of demand for this service.

Context

Influenza is an acute viral infection of the respiratory tract. Between 30% and 50% of infections are believed to be asymptomatic. Thus, the virus may spread rapidly, especially in closed communities. The risk of serious illness following influenza infection is highest amongst older people and those with existing health problems. Seasonal influenza in the UK usually peaks between December and March.

Influenza vaccine is believed to provide immunity to around 59% of adults aged 18-65. Immunity is achieved within fourteen days and lasts for one season. Effectiveness may be reduced (suboptimal) in older people.

Research evidence suggests that the most effective strategies for protecting social care users from influenza infection include vaccination of front line care workers, thus reducing opportunity for the virus to spread.

The Department of Health, Public Health England and NHS England (2017) recommend that:-

“Frontline health and social care workers should be provided with flu vaccination by their employer. This should form part of the organisations’ policy for the prevention of transmission of infection (flu) to help protect patients, residents, and service users as well as staff and their families. This includes staff in all NHS trusts, general practices, care homes, and domiciliary care “.

The provision of influenza vaccination to critical service providers and front line care staff has the potential to:-

- Reduce the transmission of influenza within health and social care premises
- Protect residents who may have a suboptimal response to their own immunisations
- Reduce admissions to hospital of frail elderly care users who may suffer from serious illness following influenza infection
- Help protect staff and their families from infection
- Avoid disruption to services through reduction in staff sickness

Service Description

Cumbria County Council will undertake distribution of vouchers to front line members of staff and key care providers. Vouchers will entitle members of staff to receive an Influenza Vaccine free of charge from a community pharmacy.

When a member of staff presents at a pharmacy the participating pharmacist will collect the voucher presented and ask the presenting member of staff for additional proof of their identity. This must be provided in the form of a Cumbria County Council or Cumbria Care photo identification badge.

The participating pharmacies should ascertain whether the presenting member of staff is eligible for a free NHS influenza vaccine. If they are, they should be treated as an NHS patient and documented accordingly.

The pharmacist will assess the presenting member of staff for any contraindications to the vaccine.

If there are no contraindications, the pharmacist will seek consent from the members of staff to receive the quadrivalent vaccine, and for the details of the vaccination to be shared with their employer and, if appropriate, their GP practice.

Following consent the pharmacist will provide the vaccine.

Competency

It is the responsibility of the Provider to make sure that all staff providing this service are appropriately trained and competent to do so. The commissioner may request evidence that this is the case.

Documentation

Details of the vaccination, including a record of the member of staff's consent and the number of the voucher presented, should be entered onto the Pharmoutcomes service template.

Where vaccinations are provided to members of staff who are eligible for the NHS flu vaccine programme, details of the vaccination should be provided to the worker's GP practice either by secure email or notification of fax in accordance with the NHS flu vaccination service specification.

The pharmacist should keep the original voucher for audit purposes.

Quality Standards

Providers are required to have a robust incident reporting and investigation procedure in place for all clinical and non clinical incidents

All Seriously Untoward Incidents must be recorded and reported to the commissioner and to NHSE, as appropriate, in line with the General Pharmaceutical Contract.

Payment

For each vaccine provided and recorded on Pharmoutcomes the Council will pay £12.00.

This includes the cost of the quadrivalent vaccine.

Payment will be made monthly by BACS.

The Council do not guarantee a level of activity for this service.

Where vaccination is provided to staff who are eligible for the free NHS flu vaccination programme, these should be processed as an NHS patient in order to receive payment from the NHS.

It is the responsibility of the provider to ensure that data is entered onto the appropriate Pharmoutcomes template accurately and timely. The Council cannot guarantee to make retrospective payment for incorrectly entered data.