



Nov 2019

Dear Colleagues

Flu vaccination season has just started, and the LMC, CPL and CPC would like to encourage Cumbria and Lancashire healthcare professionals to work together to ensure that services offered from Pharmacies and General Practices are complementary and deliver the best possible outcomes for our patients across these areas.

With national uptake figures in the last flu season lower across all groups than in previous years, there is still a lot more work to do to protect our 'at risk' patients. Both Pharmacy and General Practice have a role to play in identifying and engaging these patients- and vaccinating to keep people out of hospital this winter. It is essential that we work together to deliver a service that meets the needs of the local population.

We would encourage General Practices and Pharmacies to talk to each other about the vaccination service they are planning to offer and agree how best to work together locally in the interest of patients.

Patient choice is the foundation of today's National Health Service; and ensuring that patients are enabled to make a choice that suits their lifestyle and meets their needs should underpin delivery of any service we offer. General Practice and Pharmacy are both private businesses and are both facing pressures to deliver services and maintain income, however if we work together to reach as many patients as possible then all services will have a successful flu season.

Many thanks

Handwritten signature of Peter Higgins in black ink.

Peter Higgins
Chief Executive

LMC

Handwritten signature of Kath Gulson in blue ink.

Kath Gulson
Chief Executive Officer

Community Pharmacy Lancashire

Handwritten signature of Jeff Forster in black ink.

Jeff Forster
Chief Officer

Community Pharmacy Cumbria