

## **Launch of the expression of interest process for the autumn/winter 23-24 Community Pharmacy Covid-19 vaccination service and the Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Advanced Service specification**

We would like to thank community pharmacy contractors for their vital contribution to the Covid-19 and seasonal influenza programme. Your commitment has helped to protect thousands of people from serious illnesses and reduced avoidable hospital admissions.

The expression of interest process for the autumn/winter 23-24 Covid-19 service has launched today and we have also published the Community Pharmacy Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Advanced Service specification. We would like to encourage all pharmacy contractors to consider participating in these programmes where they are able to do so without impacting on wider services.

### **Key documents:**

- [The Community Pharmacy Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Advanced Service specification](#)
- [The Covid-19 vaccination enhanced service specification](#)
- Guidance documents on Covid-19 vaccination service expressions of interest process can be found [here](#).

### **Key updates:**

- Pharmacy contractors will have the opportunity to deliver a Covid-19 vaccination service where they will be offering the service at their pharmacy and meet the requirements, or where there is a population need and their site is selected based on the information in their expression of interest.
- We anticipate that the Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) will advise that influenza and Covid-19 vaccinations should be co-administered as the default where the patient consents and it is clinically indicated to do so. As a consequence, any Pharmacy contractors participating in the Covid-19 Enhanced Service must also deliver the Seasonal Influenza Advanced Service.
- We have updated the Covid-19 vaccination payment arrangements to reflect the efficiencies of co-administration and the need for continued investment in local outreach:
  - The Item of Service fee from 1 September 2023 will be £9.58 for each influenza vaccine administered to an eligible patient and £7.54 for each Covid-19 vaccine administered to an eligible patient. That means when Covid-19 and flu vaccines are co-administered, the combined fee will be £17.12.
  - In addition, there will be continued investment in local outreach and a more targeted approach to improve uptake in historically less well-served communities.
  - A supplement of £10.00 will be paid for each Covid-19 vaccination administered to a housebound patient.

- We will communicate the start date for the Covid-19 and influenza campaigns to participating pharmacy contractors following receipt of recommendations from JCVI but we anticipate that this will be in October 2023.

### **Covid-19 vaccination enhanced service**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity / Milestone</b>
<b>4 August</b>	Expressions of Interest process opens at <a href="#">Health-Family Portal</a> (C173469).
<b>29 August (5pm)</b>	Deadline for CP providers to indicate their intentions

#### Key additional information:

- All contractors that wish to participate in the Community Pharmacy Covid-19 Vaccination Enhanced Service 23-24 must submit their responses via the [Health-Family Portal](#) using code C173469 by 29 August at 5pm. Please ensure you leave plenty of time to upload your information since late submissions cannot be accepted.
- The Covid-19 vaccination enhanced service specification has been provided in draft form for contractors to review. Final versions will be circulated (by NHS regional teams or their representatives) once the JCVI have issued their final statement on the autumn/winter 23-24 Covid-19 vaccination campaign. This final version must be signed by participating pharmacy contractors returned to their regional team.
- We anticipate that the network of sites may change this year as more sites offer services from usual healthcare premises. It is important that existing providers engage with their local NHS teams after the expression of interest deadlines to understand the number of vaccines that are expected to be provided from their site and make appropriate plans.
- Full details can be found in the documents published today.

### **Seasonal influenza vaccination advanced service**

#### Key additional information:

- Patients will be eligible for seasonal influenza vaccinations in line with the announced and authorised cohorts as communicated in the Primary Care Bulletin. As set out in the [Flu Letter](#), further guidance will follow on how the influenza programme should be aligned to the autumn Covid-19 vaccination programme.
- Contractors are reminded that they must use one of the recommended vaccines listed in the Flu Letter.
- We are making some changes to improve patient vaccination records, supporting up to date information for clinicians and operational insights to target uptake.
  - Most vaccination data is already recorded electronically. From this season, all pharmacy contractors must use an NHS assured point of care system to record the administration of influenza vaccinations. A

system will be made available, or you can choose to use an accredited system of your choice instead.

- The vaccination event should be recorded on the day of administration or, in exceptional circumstances, as soon as possible thereafter.
- Full details can be found in the service specification published today.

**Actions for Community Pharmacy contractors:**

- Those contractors intending to participate in the Community Pharmacy Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Advanced Service must familiarise themselves with the service specification, commence planning their service, and once published, read and sign up to the relevant Patient Group Direction and/or the National Protocol before commencing the service.
- All contractors that wish to participate in the Community Pharmacy Covid-19 Vaccination Enhanced Service 23-24 must familiarise themselves with the specification and expression of interest process, and submit their responses via the [Health-Family Portal](#) (using code C173469) by 29 August 2023.

If you have any questions, please direct these to [england.pccovidvaccine@nhs.net](mailto:england.pccovidvaccine@nhs.net).

Yours sincerely,

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