



Dear Colleague

PNEUMOCOCCAL IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME

Summary

1. This circular sets out the arrangements which will apply for reimbursing community pharmacy contractors and dispensing doctors for the supply of pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPV) in 2008-09.

2. The arrangements underline the need for co-operation between GPs and their local pharmacies to ensure optimum uptake of the vaccination programme by the target groups.

Support from General Practice

3. GPs should write "PPV" on all prescriptions or stock order forms. This is analogous to using the 'approved name' which is recommended good practice by the British National Formulary (BNF) and will ensure that PSD is able to price these items at the correct rate.

Reimbursement Arrangements

a. Stock Order

The standard method by which GPs may now obtain supplies of PPV is through the stock order system. From 1 April 2008, the reimbursement price for vials written generically supplied on stock order by community pharmacy contractors **will be £8.83 plus VAT plus a £1.26 handling charge per vaccine.**

b. Prescriptions

From 1 April 2008 for PPV requested on GP10, the reimbursement rate for community pharmacy contractors **will be £8.83.**

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Addresses

For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards

Director of Practitioner Services

For information

Chief Executive, NHS NSS

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The standard dispensing fee will also be payable where the community pharmacy is not the subject of transitional remuneration arrangements for 2008-09.

Dispensing doctors will be reimbursed at the £8.83 rate, plus VAT.

c. In both cases, when the vaccine cannot be obtained at £8.83, community pharmacy contractors should advise Community Pharmacy Scotland, while dispensing doctors should inform their NHS Boards of supply difficulties in the standard manner. Subject to confirmation, the contractor will then be able to endorse the prescription/stock order form for payment at the manufacturer's list price.

4. The Scottish Drug Tariff is hereby amended to give effect to the contents of this circular. The ingredient cost of the vaccine will be met from NHS Board prescribing budgets. The handling fee will be met from the Pharmacy Remuneration vote line.

Ordering supplies of the vaccine

5. In placing their orders for PPV, GPs, community pharmacy contractors and dispensing doctors will need to consider the effect of publicity campaigns aimed at encouraging at risk groups to present themselves for immunisation. GPs should advise the community pharmacy contractor who will be procuring vaccine on their behalf of their requirement as soon as possible.

6. NHS Boards will be expected to support and facilitate the implementation of this programme.

7. The terms of this circular have been agreed with Community Pharmacy Scotland and SGPC.

Section 17C Schemes

8. NHS Boards should review Section 17C agreements in conjunction with Section 17C providers and where necessary vary the Section 17C agreement to take account of this circular.

Action

9. NHS Boards are asked to bring this Circular to the attention of community pharmacy contractors, Area Pharmaceutical Committees, GP practices and their Area Medical Committees

Dr Jonathan Pryce
Deputy Director

