

Dear Colleague

H1N1 VACCINATION PROGRAMME- DATA ENTRY AND EXTRACTION

I am writing to all practices to give you information and guidance on data issues associated with the vaccination programme and to alert you to plans for extraction of uptake data.

You will be aware that the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) of the BMA has now agreed to the terms under which GPs will be paid for delivering vaccination to the JCVI recommended clinical risk groups as below:

- i. Individuals aged between six months and up to 65 years in the current seasonal flu vaccine clinical at-risk groups*
- ii. All pregnant women
- iii. Household contacts of immuno-compromised individuals
- iv. People aged 65 years and over in the current seasonal flu vaccine clinical at-risk groups

*the current definition of asthma used for the seasonal flu vaccination programme is appropriate

Details of the Directed Enhanced Service for this programme will be finalised shortly. This letter is concerned with data entry and extraction.

You will be informed of the date when vaccines will be available for the primary care vaccination programme by your NHS Board – this is likely to be within the next 2-3 weeks.

**From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Harry Burns MPH
FRCS(Glas) FRCP(Ed) FFPH**

Enquiries to:

Dr Nadine Harrison
Room 1R09
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

Tel: 0131-244 2054
Fax: 0131-244 2621
Nadine.harrison@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

19 October 2009

SGHD/CMO(2009)11

Addresses

For action
NHS Board Medical Directors

For information
NHS Board Chief Executives
NHS Board Directors of Public Health

Support for practices

Read codes will be available to support the vaccination programme. Practices will need to install the October Read code release as soon as it is made available: this is anticipated before the start of the vaccination programme.

Read codes to identify those in the risk groups above, many of which reflect the seasonal flu clinical at risk groups, will be based on the PRIMIS plus dataset for seasonal flu issued by the Department of Health. Until this is available in all Scottish systems, practices should use their current seasonal flu clinical risk search codes to identify patients for H1N1 vaccination.

To help practices in delivering this programme, SCIMP have put together guidance covering all aspects of data management. This is available through the link below and should be referred to when planning your practice vaccination programme.

http://www.scimp.scot.nhs.uk/H1N1_Influenza.html

This guidance will be updated regularly as the situation unfolds and decisions are made so you are advised always to use the web version.

Extraction of Uptake data

GP IT suppliers have also been asked to develop software to support reporting of aggregated and anonymised uptake data broken down by age and clinical risk group. No patient identifiable data will be extracted. This software is the same as that used by the Department of Health, thereby improving consistency of reporting across the UK.

Practices will be able to use these data to monitor their uptake at a practice level.

It is planned that anonymised, aggregated uptake reports will be extracted via eLinks to inform Health Protection Scotland (HPS) about uptake across Scotland, again broken down by age and clinical risk group. The extract will occur weekly and, once set up, should not require intervention by the practice. The full data set when finalised, including details of Read codes, will be available on the SCIMP web site.

I would ask practices to assist with the installation of this software when it becomes available to enable rapid establishment of national uptake reporting for the vaccination programme.

This programme, including data extraction, is supported by the Scottish General Practitioners Committee of the BMA .

Information on clinical aspects of the vaccination programme will be contained in a further CMO letter in due course.

I am very grateful to GP practices for their support in the pandemic so far with surveillance of flu like illness and look forward to your continuing support in monitoring uptake of vaccinations.

Yours sincerely

HARRY BURNS