

Dear Colleague

## INFLUENZA VACCINATION: DATA EXTRACTION FROM GP PRACTICES

1. [My letter of 19 October 2009](#) provided advice in relation to IT issues arising out of the H1N1 vaccination programme. In that letter I advised on arrangements that had been put in place to extract data from GP IT systems to support surveillance activity around the Influenza A (H1N1) Pandemic. I am writing now to advise you that we intend to continue to use this software to extract similar data on an ongoing basis for seasonal flu purposes.

2. As reported in my letter of 19 October, GP IT suppliers were asked to develop software to support reporting of aggregated and anonymised uptake data broken down by age and clinical risk group. This was on the basis that no patient identifiable data would be extracted. This software is the same as that used by the Department of Health, thereby improving consistency of reporting across the UK. Practices are also able to use this data to monitor their uptake at a practice level.

3. As with the pandemic response, it is planned that anonymised, aggregated uptake reports will be extracted via eLinks to inform Health Protection Scotland (HPS) about vaccine uptake across Scotland, again broken down by age and clinical risk group. The extract will occur weekly and 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.

4. To reduce practice administrative burden HPS will share your information on aggregate seasonal influenza vaccine uptake with Practitioner Services Division as a means to generate an interim claim for payment for each of the general practices submitting data (the detail of this interim seasonal influenza payment in December and the end of financial year claim for payment will be provided by PSD in a separate communication).

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

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### Addresses

#### For action

- Directors of Public Health
- CPHM (CD&EH)
- Medical Directors for circulation to all staff in A&E Depts, Intensive Care Units, High Dependency Units and Microbiologists
- All General Practitioners including Practice Nurses, non-principals and Out of Hours services
- NHS 24
- Scottish Ambulance Service
- Scottish Drugs Forum for cascade to services for drug users
- Crown Office for circulation to Procurators Fiscal

#### For Information

Chief Executives, NHS Boards

### Further Enquiries

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5. The accuracy of the all Scotland and NHS Board estimated uptake is dependant on the number of practices submitting data. All practices are encouraged to submit their data.

6. This is supported by the Scottish General Practitioners Committee of the BMA.

Yours sincerely

*Harry Burns*

**Dr Harry Burns**