



Dear Colleague

INFLUENZA VACCINATION PROGRAMME – 2020/21

Summary

1. This letter advises NHS Boards of the possible role for NHS dental contractors in the flu vaccination programme for 2020/21.

Action

2. NHS Boards are asked to:
- note the contents of this Memorandum;
 - issue the Memorandum to this letter to all dentists and DBsC on their dental lists.

Yours sincerely,

TOM FERRIS
Chief Dental Officer

8 September 2020

Addresses

For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards
Directors of Dentistry, Dental
Leads, Immunisation Leads

For information

Chief Executive,
NHS National Services Scotland

Chief Executive,
NHS Education for Scotland

Directors of Dentistry
Director, Practitioner Services

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**DENTISTS/DENTAL BODIES CORPORATE
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE
GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES**

COVID-19 – INFLUENZA VACCINATION PROGRAMME 2020/21

1. This Memorandum advises NHS dental contractors (dentists and dental bodies corporate) of the arrangements and fees for participation in the seasonal influenza vaccination programme for 2020/21.

Background

2. The flu vaccinations programme has typically been delivered by those working in general medical practice. However, delivering the flu vaccinations programme this year will be more challenging than in previous years due to the impact of Covid-19. Current restrictions around the need to maintain good infection prevention and control, and appropriate physical distancing measures, means that the capacity of general medical practice is reduced for delivering the programme for 2020/21.

3. Therefore, Health Boards and Integration Authorities will take the lead role in providing the flu immunisation programme for 2020/21. As part of these arrangements, we have advised Boards that NHS dental contractors may have the capacity to opt in and to contribute to the vaccination programme. This means that dental practices may be contacted by their Health Board about possible participation in the programme.

4. The seasonal influenza vaccinations programme is a strategic and Ministerial priority. The key objectives of the 2020/21 adult flu programme are set in the Chief Medical Officers letter on the adult flu immunisation programme 2020/21 [CMO\(2020\)19](#).

5. Section 36 of the Coronavirus Act 2020 provides that dentists in Scotland may provide vaccinations and immunisations as set out in the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978 (as amended). Section 12 of the Act also gives Ministers the power to indemnify or make arrangements to indemnify those authorised to contribute to the influenza programme.

Immunisation Delivery

6. It is not mandatory for NHS dental contractors to participate in the flu immunisation programme, participation will be agreed locally by Boards and Area Dental Committees, depending on the overall requirements to deliver the programme. Precise arrangements will vary between Boards, but we anticipate that NHS dental contractors would help with mop up and top up services, specific patient groups and sessional vaccination clinics.

7. Whilst this Memorandum sets a national fee for participation of NHS dental contractors in the flu immunisation programme, it does not preclude Health Boards from contracting additional support from dentists to deliver the programme. Neither does this

Memorandum direct Health Boards to use dental contractors in local immunisation programmes.

Timing

8. Health Boards are required to deliver the influenza immunisation programme between 1 October 2020 and 31 March 2021, but have been asked to concentrate the programme before the end of November to maximise the protection of eligible individuals. They will be working with participating contractors to ensure this approach is followed.

Remuneration

9. To enable participation of NHS dental contractors and to maximise Health Boards use of NHS dental contractors contribution to the vaccination programme, a **one off participation fee will be offered to contractors participating in the 2020/21 flu immunisation programme set at £250 per contractor**. The Scottish Government has agreed with the Scottish Dental Practice Committee of BDA(Scotland) that participation in the flu immunisation programme will be remunerated **at a fee of £8.27 per immunisation**

Training

10. NES are working with NMAHP to develop learning resources which will support delivery of the vaccine. This is in line with GDC guidance that dental professionals must be trained and competent for all skills and treatment that they undertake.

Local Arrangements

11. NHS dental contractors who decide to opt-in on the request of their NHS Board will be advised about local arrangements for the immunisation programme, including provision of appropriate PPE, in line guidance on the use of PPE for immunisation and vaccinations, stock control and distribution of vaccines and appropriate monitoring arrangements.

Consultation

12. The British Dental Association have been consulted with regarding the participation of NHS dental contractors in the flu programme and on the content of this circular.

Enquiries

13. Any enquiries arising from this Memorandum should be taken up with your NHS Board.