



## Good Practice Guidance for Care Homes

### Seasonal Flu vaccination for residents

For prescribers and all staff responsible for administering vaccines in care homes

#### **Aim**

To ensure that seasonal flu vaccination for residents in care home is carried out safely and in line with current best practice.

#### **Background**

All residents living in long-stay residential care homes should be offered Seasonal Flu vaccine  
NHS Choices - <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations/Pages/who-should-have-flu-vaccine.aspx>

#### **Consent**

When a clinician administers vaccines to a resident in a care home they need to ensure they have documented consent. It is very important to ensure residents who have capacity have consented to vaccination, or to act in the best interests of those without capacity.

The [MDU](#) has some very useful guidance on consent and capacity in relation to administration of flu vaccine to care home residents which clinicians are strongly advised to refer to before administering, or instructing others to administer, vaccinations.

For other guidance on this see: <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Consent-to-treatment/Pages/Capacity.aspx> and [http://www.gmc-uk.org/guidance/ethical\\_guidance/consent\\_guidance\\_index.asp](http://www.gmc-uk.org/guidance/ethical_guidance/consent_guidance_index.asp)

Residents' relatives, friends, or care home staff who do not have the appropriate legal powers to provide consent **cannot** sign vaccination '**consent**' forms.

#### **Authorising administration**

Vaccines may be administered by a GP or Independent Prescriber (IP). They may also authorise others to administer them. There are two mechanisms:

##### **Patient group direction (PGD)**

- A registered nurse employed by the registered GP practice may administer vaccines to residents, using the NHS England PGD for the current year, provided they are named on it and certified as competent to use it.

A patient group direction (PGD) drawn up by the NHS **cannot** be used to authorise administration of vaccines by non-NHS staff employed in care homes

##### **Patient specific direction (PSD)**

- A PSD authorises suitably trained and competent healthcare professionals to administer a vaccine to a group of residents who are identified by name and date of birth or NHS number and have been individually assessed as suitable to receive it
- The PSD **must** be signed by the GP or IP responsible for the residents care and must specify the vaccine brand to be given, route of administration, dose, frequency and start and finish dates
- A copy of all signed PSDs used must be retained in line with the requirements of the [NHS records](#) Code of Practice

Any person administering a vaccine must have the necessary experience, skills and training and should be competent to administer the vaccine and be able to identify adverse reactions.



### **Allergic reactions to the flu vaccine**

A protocol for the management of anaphylaxis and use of Adrenaline (epinephrine) 1:1000 injection should be available in the care home. The vaccines along with the adrenaline should be supplied by the GP practice caring for the particular patient.

Serious allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) to flu vaccines are very rare. Healthcare staff giving vaccinations should be fully trained to recognise and deal with anaphylaxis reaction: see NHS choices:

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations/Pages/flu-vaccine-side-effects.aspx>

### **Recording**

The care home must keep its own records of vaccines administered, even when these are administered by NHS staff. The recording of vaccines should include the following:

- Vaccine name, product name, batch number & expiry date
- Site where vaccine administered
- Date of administration of vaccine
- Name of nurse administering and signature
- Whether administered under PGD or PSD. If PSD also record name of authorising clinician.

**Full details must also be sent to the GP Practice for audit and recording purposes and to facilitate recall.**

### **Storage**

Seasonal flu vaccines should be stored in a specialist refrigerator (+2 to +8 degrees centigrade). Vaccines should NOT be stored in a domestic refrigerator. Fridge temperatures should be checked daily using a maximum/minimum thermometer. The maximum and minimum temperatures should be recorded. Care home staff should know what to do if the vaccines have been kept out with this temperature range. Refer to CCG Guidance: [Refrigerated medicines in care homes](#)

Care home **must** ensure there is adequate refrigerated storage in the care home if they plan to store stock. They must also ensure the cold chain is maintained during any transfer of the vaccine.

### **References:**

1. [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/144250/Green-Book-Chapter-2-Consent-PDF-77K.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/144250/Green-Book-Chapter-2-Consent-PDF-77K.pdf)
2. Care inspectorate document Seasonal influenza, pneumococcal and shingles vaccination programmes in residential care services - 2014 to 2015  
<http://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/109989/flu-2014-2015.pdf>
3. Supporting the delivery of immunisation education  
[http://www.rcn.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/553748/004479.pdf](http://www.rcn.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/553748/004479.pdf)

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