

# Flewsy Newsy



## Read All About It!!

This issue of the Flewsy Newsy provides a welcome opportunity to update you on the latest news regarding the Community Pharmacy Flu Vaccination Service. It's still an active programme and continues until the end of March although the rate of flu like illness at week ending 2<sup>nd</sup> February was at baseline activity level (11.4 per 100,000). There's a perception that the GP based service is no longer available but opportunities still exist however and I would encourage you to continue to promote the service to your patients. Flu can strike at any time and may well return whilst the outbreak of the 2019-nCoV novel (Coronavirus) ensures that flu remains a topical issue and likely to remain so for some time to come. By reminding and encouraging patients to be vaccinated at this stage helps register in people's minds that the service is available from this pharmacy, at no charge as an NHS service to eligible patients, and would serve as a useful indicator when promoting the availability from community pharmacies as part of the 2020/21 seasonal campaign.

A few housekeeping and operational issues remain active and I would urge you to address these in the very near future should you be implicated. It would be important to conclude all aspects of the 2019-20 pilot project so we can fully embrace the next phase in the pilot with no issues unresolved remaining. A summary of the main points include –

- ◇ Please ensure that the patient's CHI number or at the very least, their date of birth is provided. This is not optional and generates tension between the pharmacy and practice staff when not provided.
- ◇ Please ensure that details of the patient's GP are recorded accurately and that the GP is in contract with NHS GG&C to provide General Medical Services.
- ◇ For the under 65 at risk patient category, please ensure that the clinical condition necessitating immunisation is entered and that it satisfies the criteria for inclusion. Please note that the terms 'other, disabled or medication' are inappropriate in this context and should not be used.
- ◇ Please ensure that you routinely forward completed patient questionnaires to the CPD Team. Estimated at present that over 1000 remain outstanding and diminishes the impact the pharmacy input has had on the service.
- ◇ Even at this stage, some provision may not be operating in accordance with the legal framework. A number of Pharmacists have still to submit signed copies of paperwork confirming they will comply with the conditions contained in the PGD whilst several contractors have still to submit a signed copy of page 10 of the Declaration of Competency document signifying that Pharmacists providing the service from this pharmacy have completed the required training and consider themselves as competent to provide this service.

## **Pharmacy Evaluation**

This is an important aspect of the project and key to the development of an effective standard operating procedure that is streamlined and easy to use whilst still able to encompass the essential legal and logistic requirements. The pharmacy evaluation form was originally proposed to be available as a hard copy and a version was included in the SLA document. In an attempt to ease your workload and encourage you to complete this stage in the process, the decision was taken to utilise the benefits of using an electronic survey and copies of the 3 versions available – to those actively participating; to those who did not sign up to participate at the outset; and those who did sign up but report no activity – sent to the appropriate location.