

Flewsy Newsy



WELCOME

Greetings to one and all and welcome to the second issue of 'Flewsy Newsy', our newsletter aiming to keep you up to date with developments on the flu front and how our pharmacy initiative is fairing within the overall framework. The following aspects represent the most recent changes to the protocols we were obliged to observe and are worthy of note since they could have a significant impact on our activity levels.

- **Actively advertise the service -**
The pharmacy service can now be advertised since the restriction on advertising has now been removed. Please use any medium you feel appropriate to promote the service.

Rather than delay the process further it's suggested a simple A4 poster carrying the following message or similar could be made up and printed off for display within the pharmacy. You may also wish to consider social media.

NHS Flu Vaccination Service*
available in this pharmacy
TODAY

Beat the Christmas rush and get yours

Please ask our pharmacist
for more details

*available to patients over 65 and
those aged 18 to 65 in the
at risk categories

In addition show material could be sourced from a number of suppliers including the NPA, or from those supplying vaccines in support of the private service.

- **Verbal prompt** – as important as the visual reminder is, the most effective mechanism to recruit patients is to verbalise the message when interacting with patients when they attend for their prescriptions needs. Strongly suggested that **every eligible patient**, derived from the script or PMR, is asked the question ‘**Have you had your flu jab yet?**’ which is then offered if the answer is ‘**NO**’.
- **Removal of restriction on prior appointment made with the GP** – this previous restriction has also been removed and Pharmacists can administer the vaccine to eligible patients who would be expected to cancel this prior arrangement.
- **Prevalence of flu infection** – from a slow start the infection rate has increased dramatically in the past couple of weeks with the Chief Medical Officer now about to approve use of antiviral medication in primary care. In considering the lag time to obtain optimal immunity, it would not be out of place to emphasise the importance of being vaccinated **NOW** to avoid being struck down over Christmas and New Year.
- **Flu vaccine is not just for Christmas** — It’s important to remember

that the initiative continues until the end of March 2020 and to keep the momentum going particularly when pockets of active infection exist.



- **Despatches from the front line** – the following issues feature in discussions with participants and are included should others be similarly confused -
 - ◇ The NEO system has been fully operational from 4 November and must be used to record all activity;
 - ◇ Please record all activity on NEO as soon as practicably possible;
 - ◇ Patient information is collated from NEO and sent to respective GP practices on a Friday each week;
 - ◇ Paper copies of activity must be retained in the pharmacy and not forwarded to any external recipient;
 - ◇ Patient evaluation forms to be returned to the CPDT on a monthly basis;
 - ◇ Payments are made automatically based on NEO entries;
 - ◇ Please ensure the patient’s details particularly CHI, date of birth and GP, are recorded on the NEO entry;
 - ◇ Activity figures will be circulated next week for comparison once data has been collated.