



Scottish Vaccine Update

Health Protection Scotland

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Seasonal Influenza Immunisation Programme 2016/17

Childhood flu programme

CMO letter CMO(2016)14 available [here](#) sets out the arrangements for the childhood flu programme. There are no changes to the childhood flu vaccination programme in Scotland this year.

Fluenz Tetra[®], a live attenuated intranasal influenza vaccine (LAIV), is the vaccine of choice for the majority of children again this year. Note that as a live vaccine, Fluenz Tetra[®] is contraindicated in some patients. Children who have a contraindication to LAIV should be offered inactivated vaccine if appropriate.

The Scottish Government has centrally procured flu vaccine for all children in this year's programme including those aged from six months to less than 18 years old in clinical risk groups. This covers Fluenz[®] Tetra and inactivated flu vaccines for those children for whom Fluenz[®] Tetra is contraindicated or not suitable.

GP Practices should place orders with vaccine holding centres in each NHS Board using the local ordering system for both Fluenz[®] Tetra and injectable flu vaccines for children. Practices must liaise closely with holding centres to ensure adequate vaccine supplies are guaranteed before organising vaccination clinics.

The vaccines being supplied for children will be as follows:

Vaccine	Type	Age indication	Cohort
Fluenz Tetra [®] AstraZeneca UK Ltd	Quadrivalent live attenuated	From 24 months to less than 18 years of age	All children aged 2-5 (not yet at school) All primary school aged children in primary 1 to primary 7 All children from 2 years to less than 18 years in clinical risk groups
Fluarix Tetra [®] GSK	Quadrivalent inactivated	From 3 years of age	Children in the above cohorts aged from 3 years for whom Fluenz Tetra [®] is unsuitable
Inactivated influenza vaccine (split virion) BP [®] Sanofi Pasteur MSD	Trivalent inactivated	From 6 months of age	Children aged 6 months to less than 2 years in a clinical risk group Children aged less than 3 years for whom Fluenz Tetra [®] is unsuitable

Fluenz Tetra® has a shorter shelf life (18 weeks) than other influenza vaccines. The expiry date on the nasal spray applicator should always be checked before use. Vaccine has been ordered to cover the period over which historically the flu vaccine has been used, extending from September to mid-December. It is likely that most of the Fluenz Tetra® will have expired by the end of December 2016. In light of this it will be important to ensure that efforts are made to vaccinate children before the Christmas holidays.

There are no changes to the Green Book chapter (at the time this issue is published) – this contains detailed advice on the vaccine and associated contraindications. The influenza chapter of the Green Book is available [here](#).

Adult flu programme

In CMO letter CMO(2016)16 available [here](#) the arrangements for the 2016-17 programme in adults aged 65 years and over and patients aged 18 years and over with ‘at risk’ conditions were laid out.

The key points of note for the adult seasonal flu programme are as follows:

- New arrangements are in place for the ordering and supply of the seasonal flu vaccine
- There are no changes to the clinical risk groups.
- Uptake targets for both the 65 years and above group, and the under 65s “at-risk” population will remain at 75%, in line with WHO targets.
- Pregnant women, at any stage of pregnancy, remain eligible for and are recommended to have flu vaccination.
- There is no egg-free vaccine available in 2016-17 as it has been discontinued by the manufacturer. A low-egg content vaccine is available.

New ordering arrangements

This year, there are new arrangements for ordering, and taking delivery of, the seasonal flu vaccine. Supplies of the vaccine have been procured centrally, and a specialist healthcare logistics company (OM Movianto) has been contracted to take orders from each GP practice and then distribute the vaccine direct. The change only applies to the supply of trivalent inactivated influenza vaccines to GP Practices for patients over the age of 65 and all at risk patients aged 18 or over.

There is no change to the arrangement for obtaining flu vaccine for children. GP practices should place orders for live nasal spray vaccine (Fluenz Tetra®) and injectable quadrivalent inactivated flu vaccine (Fluarix Tetra®) for children via vaccine holding centres in NHS boards using local ordering systems.

Annex A of the CMO letter contains details about the new procurement arrangements. For queries linked to ordering and deliveries, please contact the OM Movianto Customer Services Team (01234 248 623). If any delivery service issues cannot be resolved satisfactorily through dialogue with OM Movianto, the issue should be escalated to the board. Detailed information including a FAQ document on the new process is accessible [here](#).

Ovalbumin content of the flu vaccines for the 2016/17 influenza season

Please refer to the guidance published in Immunisation against Infectious Disease (the Green Book) for advice on vaccinations for those with egg allergies (available [here](#)). The current chapter does not contain information on ovalbumin content of flu vaccines. The table below adapted from information published by Public Health England (PHE) shows the ovalbumin content of the vaccines centrally procured for the 2016/17 season in Scotland.

Supplier	Name of product	Age Indication	Ovalbumin content µg/ml (µg/dose)
Sanofi Pasteur MSD	Inactivated influenza vaccine (split virion) BP®	From six months	≤0.1 (≤0.05/0.5ml dose)
Seqirus Vaccines Ltd	Agrippal®	From six months	≤0.4 (≤0.2/0.5ml dose)
Pfizer Vaccines	bioCSL generic influenza vaccine	From five years	≤2.0 (≤1.0/0.5ml dose)
GSK	Fluarix Tetra®	From three years	≤0.1 (≤0.05/0.5ml dose)
AstraZeneca UK Ltd	Fluenz Tetra®	From 24 months to less than 18 years	≤1.2 (≤0.24/0.2ml dose)

Note, the ovalbumin content is provided in units of µg/ml and µg/dose.

Ovalbumin content of other brands of flu vaccine is available [here](#)

None of the influenza vaccines for the 2016/17 season contains thiomersal as an added preservative.

Resources for 2016/17 season

Training materials for healthcare professionals have been developed by NES in partnership with Health Protection Scotland. These are available on the NES website [here](#).

Information for the public, including leaflets and posters have also been produced and are available on the Immunisation Scotland website [here](#).

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