

NHS England gateway reference: 000002

23 January 2019

Dear Colleagues

Update on vaccines for 2019/20 seasonal flu vaccination programme

This letter follows on from the letter sent by NHS England, Public Health England and the Department of Health and Social Care on 20 November 2018:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/vaccine-ordering-for-2019-20-influenza-season-letters/>

As stated in the previous letter, the vaccines recommended for the 2018/19 season continue to be recommended for the 2019/20 season. Both are currently licensed and available to order for use in the United Kingdom:

- The standard egg cultured **quadrivalent inactivated vaccine (QIVe)** will continue to be recommended for 18 to 64-year olds in clinical at-risk groups and other eligible groups, including frontline health and social care workers.
- The **adjuvanted trivalent inactivated vaccine (aTIV)** will continue to be recommended for individuals aged 65 years and over.

In addition, the **cell grown quadrivalent vaccine (QIVc), Flucelvax® Tetra**, is now licensed for use in the UK for patients aged nine years and upwards. The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) considers that QIVc is equally suitable to:

- Quadrivalent inactivated vaccine (QIVe) for those aged 9¹ to 64 years in clinical at-risk groups and other eligible groups, including frontline health and social care workers. Both QIVe and QIVc are preferable to standard egg based inactivated trivalent vaccines (TIVe).
- Adjuvanted trivalent vaccine (aTIV) for individuals aged 65 years and over, which is preferable to standard egg based inactivated trivalent and quadrivalent vaccines (TIVe/QIVe) on the grounds of both clinical and cost-effectiveness.

The **high-dose trivalent vaccine (TIV-HD)**, which JCVI also advised as equally suitable for use in those aged 65 years and over, has now been licensed for use in the UK but has a significantly higher list price than the equally suitable vaccines. This vaccine will not be

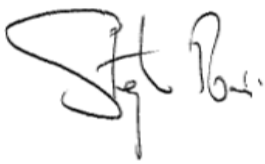
¹ All vaccines for those aged under 18 years will continue to be procured and supplied by Public Health England.

commissioned by NHS England or reimbursed for use in the NHS Influenza vaccination programme in 2019/20.

Providers should order currently licensed vaccines, aTIV, QIVe and QIVc for the 2019/20 season for their populations in eligible groups. These three recommended vaccines will be eligible for reimbursement by NHS England.

Please see **Annex A** for a summary table and information on vaccine cost.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Powis', written in a cursive style.

Professor Stephen Powis
NHS England
National Medical Director

Annex A

Product	Suitable for use in clinical at-risk / eligible adults under 65 years	Suitable for use in adults 65 years and over	Licensure status	Recommended by NHS England	NHS Cost per dose *See link for further detail on vaccines, cost and supplier
Standard trivalent vaccines (TIVe)	NO	NO	Licensed	NO	NA
Standard egg-grown quadrivalent vaccines (QIVe)	YES	NO	Licensed	YES	Products available at £8.00 and £9.94
Adjuvanted trivalent vaccine (aTIV)	NO	YES	Licensed (for those aged 65 years and over)	YES	£9.79
Cell-grown quadrivalent vaccine (QIVc)	YES	YES	Licensed (aged 9 years and over)	YES	£9.94
High-dose trivalent vaccine (TIV-HD)	NO	YES	Licensed (for those aged 65 years and over)	NO	£20.00

*Prices and suppliers of the vaccines can be found here:
<https://bnf.nice.org.uk/medicinal-forms/influenza-vaccine.html>.

We would ask providers to be cognisant of the relative costs to the NHS of the range of vaccines available in the market when ordering vaccines for the 2019/20 season.