



COLLINGHAM MEDICAL CENTRE

Autumn 2018 Newsletter

“You said—We did” Section

As you feedback to the practice and our Patient Participation Group (PPG) with your thoughts and suggestions we follow-on from the Spring Newsletter with more questions, queries and suggestions

You said—We did (6)

Why do the letters I receive from Collingham Medical Centre look like



Mail Management—Docmail

The envelope may look a little different, now we use unique mail management for some of our letter printing and mailing needs. This allows us to reduce the time we invest in this process and the costs so that we can reinvest in clinical time.

Docmail uses the NHS IG recommended 256 bit RSA encryption for sending the letter image to their printer.

The standard delivery of letters remains unchanged as Royal Mail Standard Class (2-3 days).

Docmail is environmentally friendly too, accredited to FCS (Forest Stewardship Council).

You said—We did (7)

Why do team members not put their names on the bottom of the letter?

Team Member Signatures

As, most of the NHS team work long days but not 5 days a week (they can work 40 hrs over 3-4 days due to our opening hours).

- Any Patient Care Adviser (PCA) can support a follow-up query
- Any Nurses can support a vaccination query following a patient receiving a letter

We had made the decision to allow flexibility in order that a patient does not feel that only the team member who has signed the letter can answer the query. We can see the team member who generated the letter to ensure that there is accountability in your care.

That said, a number of patients recently have not been happy with this approach and suggested we consider re-instating a personal signatory. We now ensure there is a named individual on each letter for your reference.



Collingham Medical Centre – Information Sheet
ADJUVANTED TRIVALENT FLU VACCINE FOR 2018-19

Which flu vaccine will be administered to those aged 65 years and over for 2018-19?

On 5 February NHS England stated that GP practices and community pharmacy providers should offer the new **adjuvanted trivalent influenza vaccine** (aTIV) to all those aged 65 and over in 2018/19. This is the most effective vaccine currently available for this group. This is based on current Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advice on aTIV that was published in the Green Book in December 2017.

Which flu vaccine will be administered to those aged under 65 years for 2018-19?

In the letter of 5 February NHS England stated that GP practices and community pharmacy providers should offer adults aged under 65 in clinical at-risk groups the **quadrivalent influenza vaccine** (QIV) which protects against four strains of flu. This reflects updated Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advice on QIV that was published in the Green Book in October 2017.

Why is aTIV preferred to a quadrivalent vaccine for people aged 65 years and over?

In those people aged 65 and over aTIV has been shown to be more efficacious than non- adjuvanted vaccine. aTIV is therefore preferable to a non-adjuvanted QIV in this age group. There is currently no adjuvanted quadrivalent vaccine available for use in the UK. In other eligible populations aged under 65 the quadrivalent influenza vaccine has been shown to be more effective compared to the trivalent influenza vaccine; aTIV is not licensed for those aged under 65s.

When will adjuvanted trivalent flu vaccine (aTIV) be delivered?

Seqirus, the manufacturer of aTIV has confirmed that they can supply enough vaccine for the population aged 65 years and over in the UK. To meet the additional demand resulting from using the most effective vaccine, that is aTIV, the manufacturer has increased planned production and extended the window for ordering to 12 April 2018. Usually vaccine orders are confirmed by the previous October, i.e. October 2017. Public Health England are aware of the effect these late decisions will have on the vaccination programme for 2018-19.

Delivery to providers across the UK are being phased; 4 million doses will be available for delivery in September, 2 million doses by mid-October and 3 million doses in early November. The Collingham Medical Centre has ordered in line with an accurate forecast of the vaccines needed to cover the population aged 65 years and over to avoid wastage of vaccines by over-ordering. Seqirus have communicated to all customers more precise details around their expected volume by drop (month) to help GPs/Pharmacies to plan their clinics.

The start of the influenza season varies each year – usually from December onwards. It is better to be vaccinated as early in the vaccine campaign as possible up to November, bearing in mind it takes two weeks to develop an immune response. In 2017-18 around 65% of those aged 65 years and over had taken up the offer of immunisation by mid- November, this rose to 72.6% by the end of January.

What is the proposed delivery schedule for adjuvanted trivalent flu vaccine aTIV in 2018?

The manufacturer of aTIV has advised UK deliveries will be made during September, October and early November. [The delivery dates for Collingham Medical Centre aTIV vaccine have changed a few times, at the time of print \(28 Aug\) we have been advised](#)

- 28 September 2018 - 700 doses
- 26 October 2018 – 400 doses
- 16 November 2018 – 700 doses

Based on this information, we are planning Flu Clinics to commence from Saturday, 6 October 2018 to allow a little compensation for late delivery and clinics will be staggered (based on vaccine stock) through to Saturday, 15 December to mirror the volumes expected on site. We will plan enough appointments to support the number of vaccines being delivered and aim to have vaccinated all those eligible by mid-December.

Due to availability of the vaccine, we will be offering to all over 65 years patients with a Long Term Condition (i.e. Asthma, COPD, Diabetes, CHD, etc) in the first instance during September and October. Patients will receive an invitation for the vaccine by text or letter, and only these patients will be able to book in the first instance. We hope to have these communications out by 8 September 2018.

Would it be better to immunise with QIV instead of waiting for supplies of aTIV?

Given the clear evidence about the potential clinical benefits, aTIV is a more appropriate choice than QIV vaccine for older people and is the clear recommendation to GP practices and community pharmacy providers based on JCVI advice.

In what presentation will aTIV be supplied?

Due to the increased volume of aTIV to be produced, the manufacturer will, for the 2018/19 season only, deliver most of the supply in pre-filled syringes (Luer Lock) with a separate needle which will require attachment prior to administration of the vaccine. [This means for Collingham Medical Centre that we need to allow more clinical time per vaccine to administer the vaccine.](#)

The letter of 5 February recommended QIV for 'under 65s in clinical risk groups', does this apply to other eligible groups such as unpaid carers?

Yes, other eligible groups such as unpaid carers (provided they are under 65 and therefore not also eligible for aTIV) will be offered QIV as they are likely to derive greater clinical benefit from this compared to TIV.

Flu vaccines for children in 2018-19

Vaccines for all eligible children aged from 6 months to 17 years will be supplied centrally through the NHS England (Fluenz Tetra® and quadrivalent inactivated flu vaccines). The license has recently changed on two quadrivalent inactivated vaccines and they are now licensed from 6 months of age. Public Health England are currently undertaking the procurement process for quadrivalent inactivated vaccines for children in the 2018/19 season, we await confirmation of vaccine availability and delivery.

Change of Details and Mobile Phone Numbers

It is important that you let us know of any changes to your contact details or address so that if we need to contact you we have correct information to do so.



We also offer a free text service to all patients who have given us mobile phone number. We will send texts to remind you of booked appointments and also to inform you of any changes to appointments. Please contact reception to register your mobile phone number.

Practice Newsletter



Keep to up to date with changes in your local NHS GP practice. If you would like to receive an electronic copy, please

- visit our website at www.collinghammedicalcentre.co.uk.
- Select “Newsletters” (under Further Information) and click on the “sign up here” link.
- Enter your name and email address and you will be added to our mailing list to receive future newsletters directly into your email inbox.

Or, you can continue to pick up a copy from the usual distribution points.

How to Contact Us



Enquiries/Emergencies: 01636 892156
Appointments: 01636 893956
Repeat Prescriptions: 01636 892210



To cancel your appointment, text **07498 083528** - include your name and date of birth in the message. *Please do not use this number for any other purpose*)



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SYSTMONLINE (On-line appointment booking, ordering medications and access to records)

If you would like to register to use SystmOnline for booking of doctors appointments, ordering repeat medications and viewing your medical record, please ask a member of the PCA team to set this up for you.

Once registered, you can access the website via the link at the bottom of the home page on the practice website. You can also download apps for use on Apple and Android devices.

