

**Directed Enhanced Service for Flu Immunisations (including  
Pneumococcal)**

Reference: DES 03

Contents:

1. Finance Details
2. Service Aims
3. Ongoing Monitoring & Evaluation

**1. Financial Details**

This agreement is to cover the 12 months commencing 1 April 2007.

On agreement with the PCT for the 12 months commencing 1 April 2007, the practices will receive payment at the rate of £7.52 for each immunisation given to patients in the defined categories. The same rate will apply for under 65s at-risk as for the over 65s and for Pneumococcal immunisations.

## 2. Service Aims

### Introduction

The current at-risk groups are defined as:

- ❖ those of all ages (including children) with:
  - chronic respiratory disease, including asthma
  - chronic heart disease
  - chronic renal disease
  - immuno-suppression due to disease or treatment
  - diabetes mellitus
- ❖ those aged 65 and over
- ❖ those living in long-stay residential and nursing homes or other long-stay facilities.

### Aims

The purpose of this enhanced service is to cover the provision of influenza and Pneumococcal immunisations for those aged 65 and over and other at-risk groups. This is to reduce the serious morbidity and mortality from influenza by immunising those most likely to have a serious or complicated illness should they develop influenza. This can avert the need for the patient to be hospitalised.

Throughout the UK, the target for immunising those aged 65 and over is 70 per cent. No uptake target has been set for immunising those in the non-age-related at-risk groups, as reliable statistics on the size of this group are not available. For all at-risk groups, GPs should maximise uptake in the interests of patients. In all cases, the final decision as to who should be offered immunisation is a matter for the clinical judgment of the GP, although the PCT would encourage GPs to focus on the at-risk groups. Payment will only be made for patients immunised within the categories defined above.

The model scheme gives incentives to GPs to provide a proactive and preventative approach by adopting robust call and reminder systems for the patients on their list in the at-risk groups to receive immunisation.

### Eligibility

Payment arrangements under the scheme will apply to all at-risk patients who are immunised by 31 March [in the relevant financial year]. These include all of those who are or will be aged 65 or over on 31 March [in the relevant financial year]. For payment purposes the immunisation programme will operate from 1 August to 31 March [in the relevant financial year].

The non-age related at-risk groups are described in paragraph 2. It is for each practice to identify the patients concerned from their records and this will be consistent with the registers maintained as part of the quality and outcomes

framework.

### **How the immunisation programme will work**

Individual GP practices will have accurate registers for the majority of the at-risk patient population as part of the quality and outcomes framework if they are participating. Non-participating practices would have to be able to produce satisfactory registers to be eligible for this enhanced service.

It is expected that, as is normal procedure, influenza immunisation will be concentrated in the period 1 September to 31 January [of the relevant financial year]. However, immunisation given at any time between 1 August and 31 March [of the relevant financial year] will qualify under this scheme.

Practices will be responsible for organising a robust call and reminder system for all at-risk patients. National Read codes are available and will be standardised as part of the UK approach to having agreed Read code definitions. If practices store information on computers, they should ensure that all staff enter the same Read code to indicate influenza immunization has been given or offered.

### **3. Ongoing Monitoring and Evaluation**

Monitoring of practice uptake will continue as required during the financial year by the PCT lead.