

Flu Vaccines 2018

Flu-related illness is a major problem for older patients and can lead to complications, hospitalisation or even death. Each year older patients or patients with an underlying health condition such as chronic heart, kidney, liver or respiratory disease may become seriously ill due to flu. It is therefore recommended that all patients who fall into these categories take up the offer of a free flu vaccination.

This year the NHS has recommended that patients aged over 65 should receive a different flu vaccine to those patients aged under 65 who fall into certain categories. As in previous years these groups of patients are eligible for a free NHS flu vaccination. Please check to see if you are eligible on the list provided below;

- **Chronic Respiratory Disease**
- **Chronic Heart Disease**
- **Chronic Kidney Disease**
- **Chronic Liver Disease**
- **Chronic Neurological Disease**
- **Immunosuppression due to disease or treatment**
- **Diabetes**
- **Morbidly Obese**
- **Asplenia or dysfunction of the Spleen**
- **Pregnant**
- **Carers**

***Please note:** if you book an appointment and are not eligible we will be unable to provide the vaccination causing you to waste your time and an appointment which could be used for another patient.

Vaccine Information

The two types of vaccines have been produced in line with clinical evidence to ensure the best option for protection is given to each patient group.

Over 65's

These patients will receive the new adjuvanted trivalent vaccine; this new vaccine was only licensed for use in the UK in August 2017 and was therefore not an option for the 2017/18 season. However this has now been identified as giving the best protection for 2018/19 to the 65+ age group.

18 – 64yrs at risk

Public Health England now advises that the quadrivalent vaccine is the best option for 18-64 at-risk groups in the 2018/19 season. It is also used for the childhood programme if Fluenz (nasal spray for children) is not suitable.

Clinic Information

In light of the different vaccines we have organised our flu clinics slightly differently this year to ensure they run as efficiently as possible. Clinics are being organised for specific age groups, these are:

- over 65's only

- under 65's who are eligible
- children

If you are seeing the GP or nurse about another problem they will offer you the appropriate flu vaccination during this appointment there is no need to make a separate appointment.

We would like to apologise in advance to any patient that may not be able to make an appointment with a partner due to difference in age but hope you understand our reasons for doing this.