



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

20 December 2018

To: General Practitioners  
Pharmacists  
Immunisation Co-ordinators, Health Boards

Dear Colleague,

## **Influenza Vaccines Update**

### **Ordering for 2019-20**

Welsh Health Circular (2018) 045 dated 6 November 2018 gave guidance on ordering influenza vaccines for the 2019-20 season. It included vaccines that were anticipated to be licensed in time for the 2019-20 ordering window.

**The quadrivalent cell culture influenza vaccine (QIVc) has now been licensed and is available to order for the 2019-20 season.** The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advised this vaccine is effective for use in those:

- clinically at-risk;
- eligible adults under 65-years;
- those aged 65 and over.

QIVc is not recommended in preference to other vaccines but is offered as an alternative to the vaccines now available. Further detail is included in WHC(2018) 045:

<https://gov.wales/docs/dhss/publications/whc2018-045en.pdf>

The high-dose trivalent influenza vaccine (TIV-HD) has not yet received a licence. GPs and pharmacists may decide whether to order the recommended vaccines already available or wait until the TIV-HD is licenced.

### **Quadrivalent (QIV) vaccine for the 2018-19 influenza season**

We are aware that there has been some restriction this season on the availability of additional supplies of quadrivalent vaccine in some areas. The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has confirmed that with regards to the quadrivalent (QIV) vaccine recommended for adults under the age of 65, it would not prevent movement of QIV between practices given circumstances of “in short supply” or “no supply” available provided that:

- the surgery that is holding the excess stock can give an assurance that the vaccine has been held properly in the correct temperature controlled conditions;
- confirmed record keeping of temperature monitoring is available;
- the surgery that requests the QIV is able to verify the assurances given;
- the vaccine can be transported appropriately under the right conditions.

This means that clinicians are able, and are expected, to work with other surgeries and pharmacies to safely move vaccine stock between locations, in order to ensure that the sufficient stock of vaccine is distributed to reflect actual demand. Guidance on this is available in Chapter 3 of the “Green Book” Storage, distribution and disposal of vaccines’

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/storage-distribution-and-disposal-of-vaccines-the-green-book-chapter-3>.

Providers intending to supply vaccine or receive vaccine should follow the recommendations in this.

Thank you for your continued support to increase influenza vaccination uptake and protect more people from this vaccine preventable disease.

Yours sincerely



Dr Marion Lyons  
Senior Medical Officer and Chair of Wales Immunisation Group

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