

Pandemic Influenza (H1N1) Vaccination Scheme – Directed Enhanced Service

The Primary Medical Services (Directed Enhanced Services – Pandemic Influenza (H1N1) Vaccination Scheme) and Statement of Financial Entitlements (Amendment) (No. 6) Directions 2009 were signed on 29th October 2009 and come into force on the 30th October 2009.

The primary purposes of the Directions are:

- to direct Primary Care Trusts to establish, operate and, as appropriate, revise a Pandemic Influenza (H1N1) Vaccination Scheme for its area, an underlying purpose of which is to ensure that patients in the Primary Care Trust's area are offered the H1N1 vaccine;
- to direct Primary Care Trusts to offer to enter into arrangements to deliver the Pandemic Influenza (H1N1) Vaccination Scheme with those of its primary medical care contractors with a list of registered patients by 13th November;
- to direct Primary Care Trusts as to the terms of those arrangements, which in general terms accord with the agreement reached with the General Practitioners Committee of the British Medical Association as announced on 10 September 2009 (Gateway 12611)
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_105116
- to make changes to the General Medical Services Statement of Financial Entitlements to implement 2009/10 changes to the Quality and Outcomes Framework (SFE section 4) and the Childhood Immunisation Target Payments Scheme (SFE section 8) associated with the agreement reached with the General Practitioners Committee of the British Medical Association.

In delivering its responsibilities to operate a Pandemic Influenza (H1N1) Vaccination Scheme, Primary Care Trusts are expected to maximise the level of uptake of the vaccine amongst the priority groups. Primary Care Trusts are reminded that as part of achieving this aim they should take suitable steps to ensure that all patients eligible for vaccination under this first phase of the H1N1 vaccination programme have, subject to the requirement to vaccinate in priority order, equal access to vaccination. Special care needs to be taken to ensure that less easy to reach patients in the priority groups, for example those who are housebound, and for whom the Primary Care Trust has direct responsibility for ensuring that the vaccine is offered, and patients who are not registered with a primary medical services contractor have the same opportunity to receive the vaccination.

Guidance and related material on the H1N1 vaccination programme is available on the DH website

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Flu/Swineflu/InformationandGuidance/Vaccinationprogramme/index.htm>

In particular, information on the priority groups and further information for clinicians delivering the vaccination programme can be found in the CMO letters of:

- 13 August 2009 (Gateway 12241)
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_104267
- 15 October 2009 (Gateway 12781)
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_107169

In addition, NHS Employers will be publishing guidance on implementing this Directed Enhanced Service on their website:

<http://www.nhsemployers.org>

Department of Health
Primary Medical Care Branch
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