

11th September 2025

The Pharmacy Manager
The Practice Manager

Dear Colleague,

The flu vaccination season is here and Kirklees LMC and Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire would like to encourage West Yorkshire healthcare professionals to work together to support a successful 2025/26 flu campaign that delivers the best possible outcomes for our patients across these areas. This is a national service with both GPs and community pharmacies providing NHS flu vaccinations.

Given both professions are facing significant demand, and access is a continued challenge, it is more important than ever that we are working together to ensure patients are vaccinated during 2025/26.

We would encourage general practices and pharmacies to talk to each other at all levels; ICS, Place, PCN and practice level about the vaccination service this year and agree the principle that patients are free to choose where they have their flu vaccination and work together locally in the interest of patients.

It should be acknowledged that we each understand our own populations and have a discussion about reducing inequalities and how to target harder to reach or under vaccinated populations which can help achieve an effective campaign.

- Messaging, both verbal and written, to patients must not deter a patient from using a specific sector.
- Messaging must be accurate about the flu offer from specific sectors including that the flu vaccine used, and infection control requirements are the same and GP records are updated (even when vaccination is undertaken in the pharmacy).

Providers are expected to deliver a 100% offer to eligible groups and should be aiming to equal or improve the uptake rates of last season, particularly in those cohorts where uptake has traditionally been lower.

By working together, we can significantly increase flu vaccination coverage in our local communities, protecting those most at risk from infection and relieving pressure on us, and other healthcare services, during the forthcoming winter months.

For the first time, the Childhood Flu Vaccination for children aged 2–3 years is being commissioned as an Advanced Service through community pharmacy. The [service specification](#) is available for reference, and pharmacies will be able to begin vaccinating eligible children from **1st October 2025**.

Uptake in this age group has remained around **42%** in recent years, highlighting a clear opportunity to improve coverage. This pilot offers a valuable chance for **general practice and community pharmacy to work collaboratively** to increase vaccination rates, reduce flu transmission, and protect vulnerable children and their families ahead of winter.

Yours faithfully,



Nicola Goodberry Kenneally
Chief Executive Officer
Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire

Dr Sajid Nazir
LMC Chair
Kirklees Local Medical Committee

