

# Media Release

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## For Immediate Release

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9<sup>th</sup> November 2015

### **ROBERT GOODWILL MP FOR SCARBOROUGH AND WHITBY VISITED SCARBOROUGH DELIVERY CHEMIST AS FIRST NATIONAL PHARMACY FLU VACCINATION SERVICE GETS UNDERWAY**

Robert Goodwill MP visited Scarborough Delivery Chemist, Scarborough, 3pm on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2015 to learn more about the first ever national pharmacy flu vaccination service. The service aims to make it easier than ever to get a flu jab and to increase the number of 'at risk' people across England being protected from ill health over the winter months.

During the visit, Robert Goodwill MP discussed how the service has been received, the numbers of patients taking advantage and benefits of the new national service.

Syd Bashford, Scarborough Delivery Chemist's Pharmacist commented: "The new NHS community pharmacy flu vaccination service, which is now available in Scarborough, is a great opportunity for more 'at risk' people to have their jab protecting them during the winter. Community pharmacies are the most accessible healthcare locations and this service makes it easier than ever for you to get vaccinated, in the main without the need for an appointment."

Robert Goodwill MP commented: "The service which has been available for just over a month is proving to be hit with patients. Numbers have already surpassed last year's North Yorkshire total with an increase of 200.3%. I myself will be adding to the numbers by also taking advantage of the service as I did last year. The service is quick, easy and convenient. As winter draws nearer many people will suffer with ill health. Older people aged 65 and over, and adults with certain medical conditions can benefit from the NHS flu vaccination

service now being offered in pharmacies. The scheme will help protect people from health complications through the winter months by making sure they have their flu jab.”

### **About the Pharmacy Flu Vaccination Service:**

All adults aged 65 years and over, and those aged 18 years or over and in clinical risk groups, can receive a free of charge NHS flu jab at community pharmacies across the country, often without the need for an appointment. People in ‘at risk’ groups include pregnant women and those with certain medical conditions including asthma and diabetes (see the full list at <http://tinyurl.com/WhoGetsFlu>). Pharmacists will be using the same vaccination as those offered by GPs and they will be required to notify GPs when they have vaccinated patients.

### **Record Numbers**

Last year (Sep 14 to Feb 15), North Yorkshire community pharmacies vaccinated 1,721 patients. By the close of the day on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2015, North Yorkshire community pharmacies had vaccinated 5,168 an increase of 200.3% on last year. Record numbers are now taking advantage of this service.

### **End**

### **For further information contact...**

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## Editor Notes

Community pharmacists are regulated healthcare professionals. Their training includes a four-year degree along with a year working in practice followed by examinations. Pharmacists are experts in medicines and are regulated by the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC).

There are 152 community pharmacies in North Yorkshire. 95% of the North Yorkshire population live within a 10 minute drive of a community pharmacy, and the vast majority have private consultation rooms. Pharmacies use these to provide a range of public health and other services including services to help people to get the most benefit from their medicines and to lead healthier lives.

Eligible adult patients are people aged 18 years and over at the time of vaccination. They include:

- people aged 65 years and over (including those who will become aged 65 years by 31 March 2016);
- pregnant women;
- carers;
- those in long-stay residential care homes;
- people aged from 18 to less than 65 years of age with one or more of the following medical conditions:
  - chronic (long-term) respiratory disease, such as severe asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or bronchitis;
  - chronic heart disease, such as heart failure;
  - chronic kidney disease at stage three, four or five;
  - chronic liver disease;
  - chronic neurological disease, such as Parkinson's disease or motor neurone disease, or learning disability;
  - diabetes;

- splenic dysfunction; or
- a weakened immune system due to disease (such as HIV/AIDS) or treatment (such as cancer treatment).