



- **The national flu immunisation programme 2018/19 [link](#)**

In 2018/19 the one change in eligibility is the extension to an additional cohort of children, those in school year 5. Therefore, in 2018/19 the following are eligible for flu vaccination:

- all children aged two to nine (but not ten years or older) on 31 August 2018
- all primary school-aged children in former primary school pilot areas
- those aged six months to under 65 years in clinical risk groups
- pregnant women
- those aged 65 years and over
- those in long-stay residential care homes
- carers

NHS England has already written to GPs, community pharmacies recommending that for the 2018/19 flu season the most effective flu vaccine is offered for each of the cohorts' i.e.

- The adjuvanted trivalent vaccine (aTIV) for all 65s and over.
- The quadrivalent vaccine (QIV) for 18 – under 65s at risk.
- The live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) used for the children's programme is also quadrivalent.

- **NICE Otitis Media Guidance**

NICE has produced a one page visual summary of their most recent guidance for antimicrobial prescribing in acute otitis media [link](#) .

- **Immunisation training resources for healthcare professionals**

An interactive immunisation e-learning course <https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/immunisation/> has been designed in line with the latest training recommendations which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-minimum-standards-and-core-curriculum-for-immunisation-training-for-registered-healthcare-practitioners> . It consists of seven knowledge sessions with accompanying assessments relevant to all healthcare practitioners with a role in immunisation whether they advise on or deliver immunisations. Registration is free of charge at <https://portal.e-lfh.org.uk/Register>

- **Change in supply arrangements for Depo-provera**

GP practices can no longer order medication e.g. Depo-Provera directly from Pfizer, instead it should be ordered via Alliance Healthcare. An account can be set-up with Alliance Healthcare by contacting Pfizer on 0845 608 8866 for the relevant forms.

- **Changes to accessing immunisation PGDs**

Over recent years the document management of the immunisation PGDs has become complicated as changes in the structure of the NHS has meant that various different organisations have been responsible for producing these documents. In order to ensure that only the correct version of these PGDs is available to GP practices it has been decided that instead of replicating NHS England's PGDs on Pathfinder, users will instead be referred to the relevant webpage on NHS England Midlands and East website <https://www.england.nhs.uk/mids-east/our-work/ll-immunisation/pgds/> . Most of the PGDs contained on this webpage are the same as the ones that were on Pathfinder, but some of them are more up-to-date versions. It is recommended that nurses familiarise themselves with the more up-to-date version as soon as possible so they can be "signed off" to work in accordance with them. The CCGs' PGD authorisation form has been updated to account for these various changes.

- **Updated PGDs**

Please note that the following CCG PGDs have recently been reviewed and re-ratified:

- Medroxyprogesterone
- Salbutamol
- Nexplanon and Lidocaine for Nexplanon

The Levonelle PGD is currently being reviewed to take account of the latest guidance from the Faculty of Sexual and reproductive Healthcare. These PGDs are available on Pathfinder.

This edition is also available on PathfinderRF via the following link

<http://nww.pathfinder-rf.northants.nhs.uk/nene>

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