

1 November 2019

To: GP Practices and Community Pharmacies in Sheffield

Dear Colleagues

### **Seasonal Influenza Vaccination**

The flu vaccination service is an NHS Service and GPs and Pharmacists who are commissioned to provide the service should work together to achieve the intended aims to improve vaccine uptake amongst the eligible population, whilst offering patients the choice of where to access their vaccination. Unfortunately, it appears to have led to a competitive environment where providers are fighting to vaccinate patients first.

Both Sheffield Local Medical Committee (LMC) and Community Pharmacy Sheffield (CPS) continue to hear anecdotal reports of inappropriate materials and communication to patients regarding flu vaccination services. We would, therefore, like to take this opportunity to remind all contractors that any promotion of the flu vaccination service, either verbally or written must not be provided in any way as to undermine the service offered by either profession. This includes any insinuation or proclamation that vaccinations offered by another are less effective, less safe, or that other providers have lack of capacity to deliver the commissioned service.

The NHS Constitution provides patients the right to choose where they have their flu vaccinations delivered from and as such Practices and Pharmacies must not make bold statements that instruct patients not to go to an alternative provider.

Evaluation of 18/19 Service delivery data by Public Health England indicated that Sheffield Community Pharmacies delivered flu vaccinations to 8,363 individuals registered with a Sheffield GP, this is 4.83% of eligible patients in Sheffield. Community pharmacy service delivery is supporting flu vaccination uptake, complementing the service delivered by GP practices who continue to deliver the vast majority of vaccinations.

Yours sincerely



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Chief Officer, CPS



**David Savage**  
Secretary, Sheffield LMC