

For the attention of Community Pharmacies providing the Autumn 2023 COVID-19 & Seasonal Influenza Community Pharmacy Vaccine Service (CPVS):

Update One: 15th Sept 2023

URGENT

1. Pairing Information must be returned

Autumn 2023 Flu and Covid-19 Vaccinations for Care Home Residents and staff

To provide assurance all care homes will be vaccinated community pharmacists are asked to complete the following online pairing form by 9am on Wednesday 20th September 2023.

[CPVS COVID-19 spring booster service in care homes 2023 - online pairing survey](#)

Note: Each contracted pharmacy should include details of any care home(s) for which they will be paired with (multiple homes may be selected per contractor provider).

2. Return of signed contracts to your local office

Please return any outstanding contracts by secure email to your local SPPG Office as soon as possible if you are intending to provide this service. Contracts must be submitted before vaccinations can begin.

N.B. Thanks to those contractors who have already made returns

3. PGDs

Please be advised that the PGDs for the CPVS have now been published. Please check the [BSO website](#) for publication.

Note: The COVID-19 PGD is not valid until Monday 18th September, therefore no vaccinations should be administered before this date under the CPVS.

4. Ordering of Flu vaccines:

Changes to Quantities required in 23/24

Reminder: The Seasonal Influenza vaccination programme 23/24 **does NOT include healthy 50-64 year olds** as an eligible cohort, please ensure quantities of QIVc vaccine ordered reflects this change.

QIVc Quotas

Orders for QIVc have exceeded the anticipated volumes required by community pharmacy. Quotas have therefore been put in place. Any quantities above the levels stated below need prior approval from SPPG. The quotas in place are:

- 5 boxes QIVc (50 doses) for pharmacies vaccinating Care Homes
- 1 box QIVc (10 doses) for pharmacies vaccinating walk-in patients.

Pharmacies are asked to **only order stock for 2 weeks activity** in order to minimise wastage, and reorder as required.

Please contact Greg Miller (greg.miller@hscni.net) or Grainne McMahon (Grainne.McMahon4@hscni.net) if approval is required.

4. PHA Vaccinators

Community pharmacies vaccinating Care Homes have access to the PHA vaccinator pool. These are trained vaccinators employed by the PHA who can attend and provide additional capacity for care home vaccination clinics. This is a free service to community pharmacies and GP practices. Please see the information documents on the BSO website available [here](#):

- Process for GP Practices and Community Pharmacies
- PHA Sessional Vaccinator Request Form – Autumn 2023/24

The email address to send requests is: PHAVaccinesitrep@hscni.net

5. VMS Access

VMS Access Test: Please conduct a test of VMS to ensure that you can still gain access and the system is fully operational.

Please note: the password for VMS (under the PharmacyXXXX@hscni.net user account) is the same as password for the Portal. **If you change the password for the Portal the VMS password will also change to match this.**

If you encounter any issues with VMS access please email a summary to Grainne.McMahon4@hscni.net with a screen shot of the error message.

6. Private vaccinations

If you are providing vaccinations privately outside of the SPPG CPVS details of these must **NOT** be added to VMS.

Please also remember that vaccines supplied for use within SPPG CPVS must not be used for any private service.

7. COVID-19 Vaccines for Autumn 23

Comirnaty BA.4.5 and XBB.1.5 COVID-19 mRNA vaccines will be administered to individuals as the autumn booster doses. Deployment will be Comirnaty BA.4.5 vaccine at start of the programme and will likely transfer to Comirnaty XBB.1.5 vaccine when stock becomes available.

8. Communications to patients: make in clear which services you are providing, Flu, COVID or both

Please ensure all mediums of communication regarding the CPVS highlight the vaccination services you are providing, Flu/COVID or both.

Digital versions of these communications are now available in the BSO website [here](#), titles are:

- General Flu leaflet
- Health and social care workers Don't risk flu infection
- A guide to the COVID-19 vaccine autumn programme 2023

If you have any queries about the Community Pharmacy Vaccination Service (CPVS) please contact Greg Miller (greg.miller@hscni.net) or Grainne McMahon (Grainne.McMahon4@hscni.net).

Regards,

SPPG Pharmacy Vaccination Team