

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

Update Two: 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2023

### 1. Patient Group Direction Covid-19 vaccinations

Patient Group Direction (PGD) for the Autumn / Winter 2023 programme for COVID-19 vaccine (adult) has now been updated to include the new Comirnaty® Omicron XBB.1.5 (30 micrograms/dose) vaccine. Details on amendments can be found in the Change History on page 3 of the PGD.

### 2. The transition from BA4.5 to XBB vaccines

Community pharmacies should continue to use the BA 4.5 vaccine for vaccinations until further notice. Details on ordering and transitioning to Covid XBB vaccines will be provided by the Public Health Agency PHA in due course.

### 3. 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

### 4. Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September. Collaborative Forum for Community Pharmacy ECHO Network (Previously known as Community Pharmacy) 19.00-21.00

The training event on Tuesday will primarily focus on the autumn vaccination services.

### 5. Record 'Clinical Risk Group' for those <65yrs

As healthy individuals aged 18 to 64 years of age are NOT eligible for vaccination under the CPVS, it is extremely important to select the qualifying clinical risk group when recording vaccination on VMS. If this is not recorded it will be assumed these vaccinations have been given outside the CPVS and therefore may not be eligible for a payment.

Is the patient a health and social care worker?

Yes  No

Select all that apply to patient (if any)

Care home resident

Family Carer

Household immunosuppressed

Foster Carer

At Risk

Immunosuppressed

**6. Only registered health care professionals can work under a PGD. NO national protocol.**

The CPVS should be provided in line with the requirements set out in the PGD. Only **registered** HCPs can work under a PGD. A national protocol is **NOT** currently in place in Northern Ireland to allow non-registered persons to undertake operational stages of vaccination.

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

Regards,

SPPG Pharmacy Vaccination Team