

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

Update Six: 20th Oct 2023

1. BA.4-5 vaccines

- ONLY use Comirnaty XBB.1.5 for COVID-19 CPVS vaccinations, the BA.4-5 is not authorised for further use in Autumn 2023.
- PHA will shortly provide advice to providers on the next steps for any Comirnaty BA.4-5 (Pfizer) vaccine, still quarantined in pharmacy fridges.

2. Pharmacy Vaccination Delivery

- Community pharmacies have responded quickly and efficiently in the autumn programme to provide vaccinations for eligible patients after the programme was commenced three weeks earlier than planned.
- There have been circa 44,000 vaccinations administered by community pharmacy since the start of the autumn campaign.
 - 23k Flu
 - 21k COVID-19

3. REMINDER: Deadline for early vaccination payments is approaching - 31st October 2023

- PHA are aiming to vaccinate as many eligible patients as possible by 31st October 2023.
- Please continue to plan that any outstanding care homes have a vaccination date established on or before 31st October 2023.
- Supplementary payments for non-care home eligible patients [walk ins] also remain in place until 31st October 2023.
- The vaccination programme for COVID-19 will continue until early December with standard payments payable for vaccinations administered after the 31st October 2023.

4. VMS entries:

- Vaccinations should be recorded on VMS within 24 hours.
- Payments are based on VMS entry for the dates of administration.
- Are clinical records and should be contemporaneous.
- Provide assurance to PHA and other agencies on the success of the vaccination programme.
- Can be edited in the pharmacy to correct any errors.

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