

**POULTRY WORKERS VACCINATION PROGRAMME 2006/07**

**DRAFT LOCAL ENHANCED SCHEME (LES) ADDRESSING  
IMMUNISATION OF POULTRY WORKERS IN GP PRACTICES WITH SEASONAL  
'FLU VACCINE**

**Background**

Current estimates indicated that there are approximately 4000-5000 poultry workers, as defined below, in Northern Ireland. National UK guidance advises that these workers should now be offered seasonal influenza vaccine.

The immunisation is not compulsory and should be offered free of charge to the poultry workers who are registered with the practice.

Poultry workers will be identified in accordance with the type of work they do and then be notified about their entitlement to receive a free flu vaccination. The Board will/has set up arrangements with certain local employers for some of the vaccinations to be carried out but this will not meet the need for all the workers identified. Workers who are unable to be vaccinated through the workplace arrangements will be directed to their local GP. It is this group of patients to whom this LES applies.

**Aim**

If a poultry worker became infected with both human and avian influenza at the same time then there is a very slight risk that the two viruses could mix in their body to create a new and potentially serious flu virus with pandemic potential. Seasonal flu vaccine protects against infection with ordinary human flu thus reducing the risk of a new pandemic virus emerging in this way.

## Service Specification

- Target population – Poultry Workers who are unable to be vaccinated through workplace arrangements

A poultry worker means:

- (a) an individual who while on poultry premises/unit\* and in the course of his employment (including self-employment) –
  - (i) accesses enclosed poultry rearing or egg production areas,
  - (ii) performs initial sorting of poultry eggs if the sorting area is an integral part of the production unit,
  - (iii) catches or culls poultry within enclosed poultry rearing or egg production areas, or
  - (iv) performs the final clean down of poultry sheds following depopulation of a poultry house;
  
- (b) an individual who while on poultry premises/unit\* and in the course of his employment (including self-employment) collects or removes poultry manure or litter from within enclosed poultry rearing or egg production areas of poultry premises; or
  
- (c) an individual who while on poultry premises/unit\* and in the course of his employment (including self-employment) –
  - (i) catches or handles live birds,
  - (ii) kills or eviscerates birds, or
  - (iii) cleanses or disinfects areas and equipment contaminated by poultry faeces;

\*Please note that not all poultry premises/units in Northern Ireland are included in this scheme – only those housing 50 or more birds.

- Any registered patient who is a poultry worker (see above definitions) should be offered free vaccination with seasonal 'flu vaccine
- Patient details should be kept on a register as it is possible, subject to guidance and risk assessment, that this scheme will be implemented next year also
- Flu vaccine supply arrangements are the same as for this year's (2006/07) flu campaign (ie through Castlereagh Pharmaceuticals)
- Full and informed consent must be obtained prior to administration of vaccine.
- Patient information leaflets will be available from the Board including those in languages other than English
- The JCVI green book recommendations on flu vaccination should be followed
- The practice should be as flexible as possible in providing the service to encourage maximal uptake
- Information using the data form supplied should be completed and sent to Boards by 6 April 2007
- The Read Codes for the scheme are as follows:
  - 9021. letter invite
  - 65E. influenza vaccine given
  - 68NE. no consent to influenza immunisation
  - 14LJ. medical contraindication to immunization
  - 812F Influenza immunization contraindicated
  - 9N4q. did not attend flu vaccination appointment

### **Duration of LES**

This LES finishes on 31 March 2007. The results of the work across the UK regarding influenza immunisation for poultry workers will be reviewed and it is possible that the scheme will run again next year.

### **Fee Level**

The fee payable to the practice is £9.00 per immunisation administered by the practice to a patient who is a poultry worker in any of the 3 categories described. The practice must also submit a complete data return to the Board on all immunisations administered (see attached).

A patient who falls into more than one category of poultry worker should only be recorded **once** on the data form returned to the Board. The data form will be necessary to enable the Board to make payment to the practice.

The practice does not need to forward any information on poultry workers who are immunised under occupational health arrangements agreed by Boards with industry employers. Practices will be provided with information on workers immunised through occupational health arrangements in order to facilitate individual patient immunisation histories to be updated.

### **Verification**

Any aspect of the service may be subject to verification checks.

### **Payment Process**

Practices that provide this service should make claims by submission of the data form to their Board by 6 April 2007.

### **Contact at the Board**

It is hoped that this vaccination programme will not cause a lot of practical difficulty. In the event that a poultry worker attends the practice and does not know whether he/she should receive

seasonal 'flu vaccine the practice can contact \_\_\_\_\_ who is leading in organizing the Poultry Workers Vaccination Programme for this Board area and who will be able to advise accordingly.