

Medical & Allied Branch
Dr Lorraine Doherty



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

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HSS(MD)15/2005

To:
Chief Executives, HSS Boards and Trusts
Directors of Public Health, HSS Boards
Director of Nursing, HSS Boards
Directors of Pharmaceutical Services, HSS Boards
GP Medical Advisers, HSS Boards
Consultants in Communicable Disease Control, HSS
Boards
All Community Pharmacists
Medical Directors, HSS Trusts - *for onward distribution to all
Consultants*
Nursing Directors, HSS Trusts - *for onward distribution to all
Community Nurses*
Directors of Pharmaceutical Services, HSS Trusts
Director of Pharmaceutical Services, CSA
All General Practitioners - *for onward distribution to practice
staff including practice nurses*
Regional Epidemiologist, CDSC (NI)

Your Ref:
Our Ref: HSS(MD)15/2005
Date: 21st April 2005

Dear Colleague

VACCINE FOR 2005 INFLUENZA PROGRAMME

Following on last year's unfortunate experience with the supply of influenza vaccine, which necessitated the Department stepping in and purchasing vaccine directly, meetings have taken place with community pharmacists and vaccine manufacturers with a view to discussing ways of "spreading the risk" to supply in 2005 to ensure there are adequate supplies for the 2005/2006 campaign. The General Practitioners Committee (NI) have also been made aware of these discussions.

The Departmental Board have now decided that the best way of ensuring flu vaccine supply is for the DHSSPS to purchase the vaccine centrally, from a number of suppliers, and a tender exercise to achieve this has just been completed. We are hoping that the contract will be awarded in the next few days. That being so there should be no problem with delivery of this year's flu vaccine supply in good time for the flu programme to proceed as usual.

