

From the Acting Chief Medical Officer  
Dr Elizabeth Mitchell



Department of

**Health, Social Services  
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta  
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

[www.dhsspsni.gov.uk](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk)

## HSS(MD)22/2006 Follow-up

To:

All General Practitioners (*for onward distribution to practice staff including practice nurses*)

All locum or Sessional GPs

GP Medical Advisors, HSS Boards

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Our Ref: HSS(MD)22/2006 Follow-up

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> August 2006

Dear Colleague

### **INFLUENZA IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME FOR 2006/2007: ARRANGEMENT FOR ORDERING AND DELIVERY OF VACCINE**

As advised in the Chief Professionals' letter of 29<sup>th</sup> June 2006, HSS(MD)22/2006, all influenza vaccine for the 2006/2007 Influenza Immunisation Programme has been centrally purchased by the Department from three influenza vaccine manufacturers, namely Sanofi Pasteur, Solvay Healthcare and Wyeth. GP practices will not therefore incur any charges for the vaccine.

The vaccine supplies are only to be used for the immunisation of the recommended patient groups as defined in the Departmental letter HSS(MD)22/2006 on the Influenza Immunisation Programme for 2006/2007.

### **Timeline**

It is anticipated that vaccine supplies will arrive into Northern Ireland during the week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> September 2006. Therefore, to ensure availability of vaccine supplies, it is recommended that GPs and Trusts should **not** schedule clinics before the **week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> October 2006.**

### **Orders**

Although there are three different manufacturing companies involved, GPs and hospital pharmacies are requested to order generically (i.e. inactivated influenza vaccine) as there will be no preference for any particular brand. All the supplies of influenza vaccine are 0.5ml pre-filled syringe presentations and are thiomersal-free. GPs and hospital pharmacies must only order sufficient to meet their weekly needs and only the quantity that they have sufficient refrigerated capacity to store. **(Note - Storage Conditions: 2-8 C refrigerated storage/ Protect from light/ Do not freeze).**

As the majority of the stock will be in packs of 10 pre-filled syringes, GPs and hospital pharmacies are requested, as far as possible, to order in multiples of 10. Requests for smaller quantities of vaccine will be facilitated nearer the end of the campaign.

## How to Order

Orders for influenza vaccine must be placed **only** with Castlereagh Pharmaceuticals (contact details below) either by telephone, fax or by e-mail. Where possible, it is preferred that all orders from GP practices are **faxed or e-mailed**, using the attached form (a copy of which can be downloaded from the Department's website at [www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/phealth](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/phealth)).

### Castlereagh Pharmaceuticals

6a Prince Regent Road  
Belfast BT5 6QR

Tel: 028 9079 5799

Fax: 028 9079 6790

E-mail: [orders@castlereagh.uk.com](mailto:orders@castlereagh.uk.com)

Opening hours: 9:00am to 5:00pm (Monday to Friday).

## Initial Orders

Initial orders for your first delivery of influenza vaccine can be placed with Castlereagh Pharmaceuticals **from w/c 14<sup>th</sup> August 2006**. Initial orders must only be a small quantity of influenza vaccine to start your immunisation clinics.

## Additional Orders

Additional orders can be placed from week commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> October and orders should be placed weekly to meet on-going requirements. Please note that there is no limit on the number of orders that can be placed on an on-going basis and GPs and hospital pharmacies are requested to only hold sufficient stock to meet weekly needs. **As Castlereagh Pharmaceuticals will deliver all orders within 48 hours of receipt there is no need to stockpile vaccine.** However should any more urgent delivery be required please contact Customer Services (Tel: 028 9079 5799).

## Delivery

Castlereagh Pharmaceuticals will deliver orders **within 48 hours of receipt**. All orders must be signed for on receipt of delivery and all vaccines must be refrigerated immediately. Any problems with the order must be notified to the driver upon delivery or as soon as possible by telephone to Customer Services (Tel: 028 9079 5799). Please note there will be no uplift of vaccines once delivered and receipted, except in the event of a batch recall.

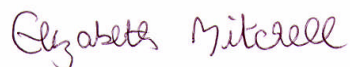
## Contingency Supply

A contingency supply of influenza vaccine will be available should particular difficulties in supply arise. This supply may be accessed by contacting Dr Jill Mairs at the Regional Pharmaceutical Procurement Service (Tel: 028 9055 2386). It should be noted that this contingency supply is limited and should be accessed only in exceptional circumstances.

## Audit

At the end of this season's influenza programme, to inform the arrangements for next year, the Department will carry out an audit of the vaccines issued and used. For that reason, and also to ensure equitable provision throughout Northern Ireland, it is important that orders are made in line with anticipated need and that wastage is kept to an absolute minimum.

Yours sincerely,



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**Dr E Mitchell**  
**Chief Medical Officer (Acting)**

cc Directors of Public Health, HSS Boards  
Directors of Nursing, HSS Boards  
Directors of Pharmaceutical Services, HSS Boards, Trusts, CSA  
Directors of Primary Care, HSS Boards  
Prescribing Advisers, HSS Boards  
Ms C Jendoubi, Director Primary Care DHSSPS  
Mr A Elliott, Director of Health Development, DHSSPS  
CCDCs  
Dr L Doherty, Senior Medical Officer/Consultant Epidemiologist, DHSSPS  
Mr A Charles, Health Protection Team, DHSSPS  
Ms J Moore, Health Protection Team, DHSSPS  
Dr J Mairs, Regional Procurement Pharmacist  
Dr B Dunn, Chair, GPC, BMA  
Mr P Tiffney, Castlereagh Pharmaceuticals

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