

From Senior Medical Officer
Dr Lorraine Doherty



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

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

HSS(MD)22/2006 Follow-up (2)

To:

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

All locum or Sessional GPs

GP Medical Advisors, HSS Boards

All Community Pharmacists

Castle Buildings

Stormont Estate

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Our Ref: HSS(MD)22/2006 Follow-up
(2)

Date: 15 September 2006

Dear Colleague

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

The purpose of this letter is to give an update on arrangements for scheduling influenza immunisation clinics.

Timeline

The position since the Chief Professionals' previous letter of 7th August has changed slightly. We now anticipate vaccine supplies being available by the end of September. This should permit GPs and Trusts to schedule clinics during **week commencing 2nd October 2006**.

Orders

As the vaccine is arriving later this year, it is essential that GPs prioritise in the first weeks of the campaign. Our previous communication on this issue advised on the prioritisation process to be used. However, in the case of any delay of vaccine arrival the first priority should be those patients with co-morbidities.

A number of GP practices have not yet placed an order for the vaccine. I would remind all practices that orders must be placed **only** with Castlereagh Pharmaceuticals (contact details below) either by telephone, fax or 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 the form can be downloaded from the Department's website at www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/phealth. Unfortunately, an incorrect fax number was included in previous correspondence and so I would ask all GPs to ensure their order has been placed.

Castlereagh Pharmaceuticals
6a Prince Regent Road
Belfast
BT5 6QR

Tel: 028 9079 5799

Fax: 028 9079 6303

E-Mail: orders@castlereagh.uk.com

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

Flu Campaign Launch

The launch of the flu campaign will take place on Wednesday 4 October 2006. This will be accompanied by a press release and media will be invited. As usual information materials will be available, however there will be no television advertisements this year.

Information for the public on Pandemic influenza

We are aware that there still remains a degree of confusion in the public perception regarding the differences between seasonal flu and pandemic flu and that GPs and Pharmacists may be asked questions about this. In October 2005 we distributed a range of communication materials on pandemic influenza including a general public information leaflet. Further copies are available on request from:

Emergency Planning Branch
Room C4.22
Castle Buildings
DHSSPS

Tel: 028 90 522453

These materials are also accessible on our website at
<http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/phealth/pandemic/pandemic.asp>

Yours sincerely,



Dr Lorraine Doherty
Consultant Epidemiologist/Senior Medical Officer

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

This letter is available at www.dhsspsni.gov.uk and also on the DHSSPS Extranet which can be accessed directly at <http://extranet.dhsspsni.gov.uk> or by going through the HPSS Web at <http://www.n-i.nhs.uk> and clicking on DHSSPS.

Castlereagh Pharmaceuticals
Influenza Vaccine - ORDER FORM

Date of Order:

Practice Code:

Practice Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Phone No:

Fax No:

Opening Times:

Contact Name:

Product Name	Quantity must be in TEN'S
Inactivated Influenza Vaccine	

6A Prince Regent Road, Castlereagh, Belfast BT5 6QR

Tel: 028 9079 5799 Fax: 028 9079 6303 email:
orders@castlereagh.uk.com

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