



LISCARD
GROUP PRACTICE

Liscard Group Practice Patient Newsletter

October 2020

Flu vaccine Special



Flu
jab
Protect yourself,
your family and
colleagues



We are now in the middle of the Flu vaccination season. Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic we are expecting an increased uptake of the Flu vaccination. We would like to share with you how our flu programme usually works, and how it may differ this year.

When are our vaccines ordered?



We have to order our Flu vaccinations 1 year in advance. The earlier we order, the earlier the manufacturer will deliver.

Our flu vaccinations for 20/21 were ordered in October last year. We order our vaccines based on the previous year's uptakes and based on how many eligible patients we predict we may have the following year. We aim to order enough to vaccinate all patients that were eligible for the vaccine.

We pay for these vaccines and if we don't use the vaccine by the end of March, we have to throw them away.

This year there have been some extra cohorts added to the list of those eligible for a vaccine because of the coronavirus pandemic. This is something we could not have predicted when ordering- so these groups were not included in our figures or taken into account for our order.

Is it true that healthy 50-64 year olds or Shielding patients should be given a Flu Vaccination?

This year, the Government announced that vaccines will be available for 'extra' groups of patients (those aged between 50 and 64 and Shielding patients and their families).

People in the 50-64-year old age group will not be vaccinated until November and December, providing there is sufficient vaccine, and no appointments will be offered for this age group until then. We are really pleased that we can offer this group of patients a vaccine but unfortunately we haven't received the vaccines from NHS England yet. We aim to invite these patients as soon as this stock becomes available to us.

In the meantime, we first have to vaccinate the patients considered to be most at risk and those that we ordered for in October last year. These are:

- Adults aged 65 and over
- People with some medical conditions including diabetes, heart failure and asthma
- People who were required to shield from coronavirus and their household

- Pregnant women
- Children aged between two and 11
- Health and social care workers

Flu Clinics

This year we will be holding the majority of our Flu clinics on Saturdays.

We have included lots of 'catch up and clean down' slots in our clinics, to allow time to perform an increased cleaning regime. This will also help stagger the flow of patients to help maintain social distancing.



So we don't have too many patients in our waiting room at one time and to help with social distancing, we are operating a one way system through the practice.

To keep you, other patients and our team safe, we ask that if you attend one of our flu clinics, you adhere to the below:

- Wear a mask or face covering
- Do not attend if you, or any household members have symptoms of coronavirus or are isolating due to a covid-19 positive test result.
- Attend your appointment alone (unless you need assistance for mobility issues ect)
- Wear clothing with loose sleeves
- Only attend at your allotted time slot- no earlier- to avoid queues forming

Why did an 80 year old get their vaccine in September but a 64 year old with diabetes has to wait until November?

This is because there are 2 different types of vaccine for adults. What one you are given is determined by your age. They come from different manufacturers and are often delivered in batches at different times.



Finally, thank you for being so patient with us this year. We know it's been confusing and it may feel as though we're being unhelpful by not booking your vaccination or not letting you wait in the waiting room

Although we are open as usual we need to make sure that we don't have too many patients in the waiting room at any time so that we can maintain social distancing.

The Practice is a place where the people who visit are sick, frail or elderly and we must do everything we can to keep you all safe.

Thank you for your understanding.