

WELSH HEALTH CIRCULAR



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Issue Date: 30 January 2019

STATUS: ACTION

CATEGORY: PUBLIC HEALTH

Title: Update on ordering influenza vaccines for the 2019-20 season

Date of Expiry / Review N/A

For Action by:

General Practitioners
Pharmacists
Chief Executives, Health Boards/Trusts

For information to:

Medical Directors, Health Boards/Trusts
Nurse Executive Directors, Health Boards/Trusts
Directors of Public Health, Health Boards/Trusts
Immunisation Leads, Health Boards
Immunisation Coordinators, Health Boards
Executive Director of Public Health, Public Health
Wales
Head VPD Programme, Public Health Wales
Community Pharmacy Wales
General Practitioner Council, Wales

Sender:

Dr Marion Lyons, Senior Medical Officer and Chair of Wales Immunisation Group

DHSS Welsh Government Contact(s) :

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Enclosure(s): None

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for your continued support to increase influenza vaccination uptake and protect more people from this vaccine preventable disease.

Welsh Health Circular (2018) 045 dated 6 November 2018 gave guidance on ordering influenza vaccines for the 2019-20 season including vaccines that had not received a licence at that time. The circular can be found at:

<https://gov.wales/docs/dhss/publications/whc2018-045en.pdf>

The Circular stated that vaccines recommended for the 2018-19 season continue to be recommended for the 2019-20 season. These vaccines are currently licensed and available to order for use in the United Kingdom:

- The standard egg cultured **quadrivalent influenza vaccine (QIVe)** is recommended for individuals in clinical at-risk groups under 65 years of age and other eligible groups including frontline health and social care workers.
- The **adjuvanted trivalent influenza vaccine (aTIV)** is recommended for individuals aged 65 years and over.

In addition, the **cell grown quadrivalent influenza vaccine (QIVc), Flucelvax® Tetra**, was licensed for use in the UK in December 2018. My letter of 20 December 2018 confirmed this. The QIVc vaccine is licensed for individuals aged nine years and upwards. For any general practices intending purchasing only QIVc vaccine, an alternative vaccine will be required for the small number of eligible children aged 6 months to 8 years for whom LAIV (live attenuated influenza vaccine) is contraindicated.

The **high-dose trivalent influenza vaccine (TIV-HD)** has now also been licensed for use in the UK. The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has advised this is equally suitable for use in those aged 65 years and over. However, it has a significantly higher list price than the other vaccines suitable for this age group and as such TIV-HD vaccine is not recommended for routine use in the NHS Wales programme.

Please see Annex A for a summary and information on vaccine cost.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Marion Lyons
Senior Medical Officer and Chair of Wales Immunisation Group

Annex A

Product	Suitable for use in clinical at-risk / eligible adults under 65 years	Suitable for use in adults 65 years and over	Licensure status	Recommended for use in 2019-20	NHS list Cost per dose (See link below for further detail on vaccines, cost and supplier)
Standard trivalent vaccines (TIVe)	NO	NO	Licensed	NO	NA
Standard egg-grown quadrivalent vaccines (QIVe)	YES	NO	Licensed	YES	Products available at £8.00 and £9.94
Adjuvanted trivalent vaccine (aTIV)	NO	YES	Licensed (for those aged 65 years and over)	YES	£9.79
Cell-grown quadrivalent vaccine (QIVc)	YES	YES	Licensed (aged 9 years and over)	YES	£9.94
High-dose trivalent vaccine (TIV-HD)	NO	YES*	Licensed (for those aged 65 years and over)	NO*	£20.00

*due to the high list price, this vaccine is not recommended for routine use.

Prices and suppliers of the vaccines can be found here:

<https://bnf.nice.org.uk/medicinal-forms/influenza-vaccine.html>.