

Immunisation Team | National Immunisation Programme  
 **2017 Annual Influenza Immunisation Programme Fact Sheet**

**To: Pharmacist vaccinators**

**Expansion of access to the funded influenza vaccine from 1 April 2017**

PHARMAC is changing the New Zealand Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 April 2017 to enable pharmacist vaccinators to provide funded influenza vaccine to:

* Individuals aged 65 years and over
* Pregnant women.

Ensuring greater access to influenza vaccine will increase uptake among eligible individuals, especially for those who have difficulty accessing general practices, reduce hospitalisations and improve health outcomes for vulnerable population groups.

Pharmacist vaccinators must meet the Ministry of Health’s (the Ministry’s) criteria as outlined in Appendix 4 of the online version of the Immunisation Handbook at

[www.health.govt.nz/publication/immunisation-handbook-2014-3rd-edn](http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/immunisation-handbook-2014-3rd-edn)

As per your usual protocol, please ensure individuals under 65 years with certain medical conditions who are eligible for funded influenza vaccination are advised this is available from their general practice.

**Influenza Immunisation Programme**

The funded influenza vaccine is available from March until 31 December each year for those at greatest risk from influenza (i.e. pregnant women, those 65 years and over and those under 65 with certain medical conditions) and were not vaccinated before or during winter.

* **INFLUVAC® is the only funded vaccine available this year.**
* **You cannot claim for any other brand of influenza vaccine.**

**Influenza immunisation coverage**

Influenza immunisation coverage based on administration fee claims for those aged 65 years and older has remained steady between 67 – 69 percent over the past few years. From 2017/18, coverage of influenza immunisation for those aged 65 years and over will be a DHB performance measure with a target of 75 percent coverage. It is important that all influenza immunisations given by pharmacist vaccinators are recorded on the National Immunisation Register (NIR) via ImmuniseNow so that this measure is accurate and local DHB targets can be achieved. This includes funded and non-funded influenza vaccines administered during the influenza immunisation programme.

Communication and implementation

The Ministry will communicate with health professionals and members of the public through our regular channels including: the monthly Immunisation Update fax; DHB teleconferences, and working through health agencies and professional bodies to ensure that providers are aware of the changes.

Thank you

The Immunisation Team appreciates the role pharmacists play in immunisation and looks forward to working with you as part of the Annual Influenza Immunisation Programme.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Immunisation Team: **immunisation@moh.govt.nz**

**Influenza vaccine Q&As**

**What do I need to do to offer funded influenza vaccines?**

1. Your pharmacy must have a contract with your district health board for the provision of funded influenza vaccination services to individuals 65 years and over and pregnant women. Currently this is via a Part P variation to the CPSA or an existing DHB agreement.
2. The vaccine must be administered by a pharmacist vaccinator who has completed the vaccinator requirements as outlined in the online version of the Immunisation Handbook.
3. The vaccination must be provided in accordance with the Immunisation Standards as outlined in the online version of the Immunisation Handbook.
4. Pharmacist vaccinators must use ImmuniseNow to send all influenza vaccine messages to the NIR. This must be completed on the same day the vaccine is administered to the patient.
5. The ImmuniseNow web application does not replace the consent form. Both steps need to be completed.
6. The pharmacy must meet the *National Standards for Vaccine Storage and Transportation for Immunisation Providers 2017*, including achievement of Cold Chain Accreditation. Refer to the Ministry’s website at [www.health.govt.nz/coldchain](http://www.health.govt.nz/coldchain)
7. The pharmacist vaccinator must have completed a level 4 or equivalent CPR course and must be supported by another pharmacy employee trained in First Aid and CPR.

**How do I become a pharmacist vaccinator?**

To become a pharmacist vaccinator you will need to meet the Ministry’s criteria as outlined in Appendix 4 of the online version of the

Immunisation Handbook at [www.health.govt.nz/publication/immunisation-handbook-2014-3rd-edn](http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/immunisation-handbook-2014-3rd-edn). These requirements are the same for all authorised vaccinators.

The Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC) offers vaccinator training courses. For more information please refer to the IMAC website at [www.immune.org.nz/education-and-training](http://www.immune.org.nz/education-and-training).

**Which brand of influenza vaccine do I need to use?**

INFLUVAC® is the only funded vaccine for all eligible patients and claim submissions for any other influenza vaccine will not be accepted. The vaccine comes in a pre-filled syringe and has a needle attached. Please note, this vaccine may also be given to your non-funded patients.

**How do I order the vaccine?**

Please ensure you order the INFLUVAC® vaccine directly from Healthcare Logistics (HCL). The vaccine can be ordered online at **www.hcl.co.nz**

If you do not have an account with HCL please email [**orders@healthcarelogistics.co.nz**](mailto:orders@healthcarelogistics.co.nz) or call **0508 425 358**.

Minimum order quantities apply for the INFLUVAC vaccine. A minimum of:

* 60 doses can be ordered in March to May
* 30 doses in June
* 20 doses in July
* 10 doses from August to December.

It is important that you do not book any influenza clinics until you have received a delivery of vaccines. Expected dispatch and delivery timeframes of vaccines can be confirmed with Healthcare Logistics on **0508 425 358** but this can take up to 48 hours.

How can I claim for the cost of the vaccine and the administration fee?

The pharmacy vendors, RxOne and Toniq, have made the necessary system changes to support you in claiming for the cost of the vaccine and the administration fee when given to an eligible patient. These changes will be in place by 1 April. Please contact your software vendor if you have any questions about the changes. For claim enquiries, please contact Pharmacy Claim enquiries on **0800 353 2425** (option 1).

**What is ImmuniseNow?**

ImmuniseNow is a web application which enables you to send influenza vaccine messages to the NIR. You need to have access to ImmuniseNow before you start providing influenza vaccination to eligible patients. There is an ImmuniseNow user guide within the application to assist you.

**How do I access ImmuniseNow?**

1. You must be a pharmacist vaccinator who has met the Ministry’s requirements as above.
2. An NIR authorised user agreement (AUA) protects and safeguards individuals. You will need to read, understand and agree to comply with this agreement.

* The AUA needs to be completed by your pharmacy’s nominated lead pharmacist for all pharmacist vaccinators employed at your pharmacy.
* Each pharmacist vaccinator will also need to sign the AUA form.
* Please scan and send the completed and signed AUA form to the online helpdesk at [**onlinehelpdesk@moh.govt.nz**](mailto:onlinehelpdesk@moh.govt.nz).
* Please notify the online helpdesk when a pharmacist vaccinator either joins or is no longer employed at your pharmacy.

1. ImmuniseNow is only available via the Connected Health network, which must be on the PC you are using to access ImmuniseNow.
2. Each pharmacist vaccinator will need an ImmuniseNow user name and login (see questions below).

**I already have a user name and password to access the Medicines Control Online System (MCOLs). Can I use this one for ImmuniseNow?**

Yes. Please use the same credentials to login into ImmuniseNow. Enter this username on the AUA form for each pharmacy that you work for. Once you have been authorised by the online helpdesk team you can access ImmuniseNow and record the vaccinations you have given at

<https://immunisenow.moh.health.nz/nir/>

**How do I get an ImmuniseNow username and login if I don’t have a MCOLs login?**

Please follow these steps:

1. Open the browser on your pharmacy PC.
2. Navigate to

<https://immunisenow.moh.health.nz/nir/>  
then go to the ‘Login’ option and click ‘Create an account’.

1. Complete each field and click ‘Register’. You will receive a message that the submission has been successful.
2. Close the message and exit the web browser.
3. Remember your username and password.

**I work at more than one pharmacy. Do I need to be listed in the NIR for each pharmacy I work at?**

Yes. The AUA only applies to one pharmacy so you will need to be included on the AUA form for each pharmacy that you work at. Please ensure you use the same MCOL or ImmuniseNow username.

**Who do I contact for more information about ImmuniseNow or a username?**

Please contact the Ministry of Health’s online helpdesk about ImmuniseNow or a username and login:

* [**onlinehelpdesk@moh.govt.nz**](mailto:onlinehelpdesk@moh.govt.nz)
* **0800 505 125**.

**Do I still need to inform a patient’s GP that I have administered the influenza vaccine?**

Yes. Pharmacist vaccinators are still required to notify GPs within two days when they have administered an influenza vaccine to their patients so their records can be updated e.g. via fax. It is planned for this process to be fully automated in the future.

**What about informing the midwife/LMC I have administered the influenza vaccine?**

It is desirable that, with a pregnant woman’s consent, you inform her midwife that you have administered an influenza vaccine to their patient or give a copy of the vaccine notification form to the woman to keep with her maternity notes and to show her midwife.

Where can I get more information about the Influenza Immunisation Programme?

The booklet ‘Everything you need to know about Flu’ has been sent to all community pharmacies and is also available for download from [www.influenza.org.nz/resources](http://www.influenza.org.nz/resources). The booklet contains information about the Programme including key reference material, clinical information and influenza in specific patient groups (e.g. pregnant women).

The 2017 influenza print resources can also be ordered from the above link. Additional information can also be found online at [www.influenza.org.nz](http://www.influenza.org.nz).