Influenza vaccination
Formulary Recommendations 18/19

Public Health England and NHS England have issued guidance on the type of vaccines which should be offered to eligible patients for the 2018/2019 flu season. These recommendations are in line with ‘Immunisation against infectious disease’ (The Green Book) which has been updated with the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation.


Influenza chapter of the ‘Green Book’ can be found at:

The aim of this document is to highlight cost effective vaccines to support healthcare professionals and practice managers when deciding which flu vaccines to order for the 2018/2019 flu season.

Influenza vaccines

All but one of the influenza vaccines available in the UK are inactivated and do not contain live viruses. One vaccine (Fluenz Tetra®) contains live viruses that have been attenuated (weakened) and adapted to cold so that they cannot replicate efficiently at body temperature. None of the influenza vaccines can therefore cause clinical influenza in those that can be vaccinated, although mild coryzal symptoms can occur with the live vaccine.

There are several vaccines available in the UK. However, licensing conditions between various vaccines vary and not all can be used in children. Detailed information, including contraindications is available in the respective product summary of product characteristics (SPCs), which can be found at http://www.medicines.org.uk/EMC

Vaccine Choice

Adults (Order directly from the influenza vaccine manufacturers)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible Cohort</th>
<th>Vaccine recommendation</th>
<th>Formulary Choice*</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult patients over the age of 18 years in a high risk clinical group (including pregnancy)</td>
<td>One dose of inactivated quadrivalent influenza vaccine</td>
<td>Generic split virion inactivated quadrivalent vaccine (Sanofi Pasteur: Tel 0845 023 0440 or Masta: Tel 0113 238 7552)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aged 65 years and over</td>
<td>One dose of the adjuvanted trivalent flu vaccine (aTIV)</td>
<td>Fluad® - Surface Antigen, Inactivated, Adjuvanted with MF59C. (Sequirus UK: Tel 08457 451500)</td>
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</table>

*Consult SPC for contraindications

Pregnancy:

Pregnant women should be offered inactivated quadrivalent influenza vaccine as the risk of serious illness from influenza is higher in pregnant women. Inactivated influenza vaccine can be safely and effectively administered during any trimester of pregnancy.

Egg allergy:

In recent years, inactivated influenza vaccines that are egg-free or have very low ovalbumin content have become available and studies show they may be used safely in individuals with egg allergy.

Adult patients can be immunised in primary care using an inactivated influenza vaccine with an ovalbumin content less than 0.12 micrograms/ml (equivalent to 0.06 micrograms for 0.5 ml dose), excepting those with severe anaphylaxis to egg which has previously required intensive care who should be referred to specialists for immunisation in hospital. In all settings providing vaccination, facilities should be available and staff trained to recognise and treat anaphylaxis. The ovalbumin content of influenza vaccines (along with other possible residues) will be published prior to the influenza season in May of each year in a special addition of vaccine update www.gov.uk/government/collections/vaccine-update
Children (Vaccines should be ordered as per the usual mechanisms for the routine childhood immunisation programme)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible Cohort</th>
<th>Children in clinical risk groups</th>
<th>Children NOT in clinical risk groups</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Six months to less than two years old</strong></td>
<td>Inactivated influenza vaccine (preferably quadrivalent where licensing allows)</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Children aged two years to less than 18 years old</strong></td>
<td>Offer live attenuated influenza vaccine (Fluenz Tetra®) unless medically contraindicated. For alternative vaccine choices see below.</td>
<td>Offer live attenuated influenza vaccine (Fluenz Tetra®) in line with the recommended cohort of children unless medically contraindicated*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please see the respective annual flu letters for England for the cohorts of children not in clinical risk groups that are eligible for influenza vaccination for the coming/current season.

Children who have not been vaccinated previously
- Children in clinical risk groups aged six months to less than two years who have not received influenza vaccine previously should be offered a second dose of vaccine (inactivated influenza vaccine), at least four weeks later.
- Children in clinical risk groups aged two to less than nine years who have not received flu vaccine before should be offered two doses of Fluenz Tetra® or inactivated vaccine (given at least four weeks apart).
- For children who are not in clinical risk groups should receive a single dose of Fluenz Tetra® in line with the recommended cohort of children unless medically contraindicated. A second dose of vaccine is not required.

Vaccination for children where Fluenz Tetra® is medically contraindicated
For those children for whom Fluenz Tetra® is medically contraindicated (including those who are clinically severely immunodeficient due to conditions or on immunosuppressive therapy), a suitable inactivated influenza vaccine should be offered. The quadrivalent vaccine has both lineages of influenza B and may therefore provide better protection against the circulating B strain(s) than trivalent inactivated influenza vaccines, see SPCs for licensed age range some of which are licensed from 6 months of age.

Egg Allergy
The ovalbumin content of Fluenz Tetra® has been reduced to ≤0.12 micrograms/ml and has been shown to be safe for use in most egg allergic children. Except for those with severe anaphylaxis to egg which has previously required intensive care, children with an egg allergy can be safely vaccinated with Fluenz Tetra® in any setting (including primary care and schools); those with clinical risk factors that contraindicate Fluenz Tetra® should be offered an inactivated influenza vaccine (preferably quadrivalent) with a very low ovalbumin content (less than 0.12 micrograms/ml). Children with a history of severe anaphylaxis to egg which has previously required intensive care should be referred to specialists for immunisation in hospital.

References