



Influenza Vaccination Information for General Practice Administrators, Receptionists and Practice Managers

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How can you help?

As a receptionist, patients often see or talk to you first and as such you have an important role to contribute to the uptake of the influenza vaccine by encouraging every patient to be vaccinated against influenza. In these COVID-19 times, it is expected that many patients will be requesting vaccination as well.

Practice Nurses will be able to assist you by letting you know which patients are eligible for a funded influenza vaccination.

You can also refer to the **Influenza Vaccination reports** in Mōhio which supply a list of patient names eligible for a funded influenza vaccination.

Funded Influenza Vaccinations

The Ministry of Health funds a free influenza vaccination for all patients over 65 years and those under 65 years who have health conditions because they are at a greater risk of being hospitalised if they contract influenza.

Māori and Pasifika people aged 45 – 64 years with health conditions are particularly at risk of complications from influenza and general practice teams are tasked to ensure most are vaccinated against influenza.

Contracting influenza can cause those people with long-term conditions to worsen. Thus, people with the following conditions and who are under 65 years are eligible for a free influenza vaccination:

- Ischemic heart disease
- Congestive heart failure
- Rheumatic Fever
- Congenital heart disease
- Cerebrovascular disease
- Asthma on a preventative inhaler
- Type one or two diabetes
- Chronic renal failure
- Downs syndrome
- Pregnant women
- Children under 4 years (special immunisation) see next page

Under 65 Years with history of Heart Problems

Studies have shown that influenza infection can cause further heart problems in this group of people and they are more likely to develop pneumonia, breathing problems and even die.



Influenza vaccine safety

Yes, the vaccine is safe and highly recommended. It does not cause a cold or influenza.

Special influenza vaccination for 0-4 years

Each year influenza infection among young children causes a significant burden on families and children. Children, along with older adults can experience substantial ill health from influenza. Children can be absent from school for long periods and this in turn impacts on parents/caregivers time off work as well as additional healthcare costs.

Influenza can also lead to further complications in children, for example, otitis media, pneumonia and in rare instances death.

Children with these conditions are eligible for a free influenza vaccination

- Children under 5 years who have previously been hospitalised with a respiratory condition
- Children who have an asthma diagnosis and regularly use a preventer
- Heart condition e.g. congenital heart disease or rheumatic heart disease
- Cancer
- Ongoing respiratory conditions e.g. bronchiectasis or cystic fibrosis
- Diabetes
- Kidney disease
- HIV, AIDs

Tips to ensure these children are vaccinated

- Add an alert in to the PMS system on all eligible children (as above)
- When the child comes in put a note on the appointment template that they are eligible for an influenza vaccination
- Put the child onto the nurse's template so they can talk to the parents about the influenza vaccine
- Alert the doctors that the child is eligible for a special 0-4 year old influenza vaccination

Babies under 6 months

Babies under six months cannot have the influenza vaccination as it is not licensed for use in patients under six months. However, these babies can contract influenza which is why family members and pregnant women should be vaccinated against influenza.

Immunisation Outreach

Children who have been referred to Immunisation Outreach Services (OIS) for their regular immunisations can also receive their influenza vaccination (if eligible). The Practice Nurse referring them to OIS needs to state they are eligible. OIS will not vaccinate for influenza only.

Recalling/Reminders

All children eligible for an influenza vaccination should be recalled until they have been vaccinated. These recalls can be by phone or text.

Here are the key points about the benefits of the special influenza vaccination that can be discussed with parents/caregivers: -

- The influenza virus can be life threatening especially in children



- Healthy children can also get influenza
- Children with chronic conditions are eligible for a free influenza vaccination as they are more likely to develop complications if they get influenza
- Any child can have the influenza vaccination from six months
- If the child has not had an influenza vaccination previously, they will require two doses four weeks apart to boost their immune system to an appropriate level

Identifying eligible children

Mōhio reports have all the names of children eligible for an influenza vaccination. This list is updated daily to reflect when each child has been vaccinated. These reports are cross matched every few months to reflect children transferring into and out of your practice. It is important to look at the report regularly to ensure all the eligible children are recalled.

Sample report

Name	Date	Action
Quarterly Carextra Report		
Monthly MACGF Patient Level Report		
Monthly HPV Vaccine Report		
Monthly Health Targets Summary Reports		
Monthly Diabetes Care Improvement Plan Reports		
Monthly Carextra Report		
Antenatal Register		
Quarterly Utilization Report	1/02/2020 12:00:27 a.m.	Download
Patient Management	9/03/2020 9:32:50 a.m.	Download
Patient List_Maori Men(30-45)	8/03/2020 7:00:46 a.m.	Download
Paediatric Weight Coding List	9/03/2020 3:51:02 a.m.	Download
No MMR on NIR	25/09/2019 4:02:49 p.m.	Download
NIR Newborn Enrolment	9/03/2020 9:00:58 a.m.	Download
MMR Vaccine	9/03/2020 3:20:54 a.m.	Download
HepC_Patient_List	19/12/2018 3:44:37 a.m.	Download
Health Targets - Patient List	9/03/2020 9:24:45 a.m.	Download
Gout Report	8/03/2020 2:57:12 a.m.	Download
Flu Vaccine Daily Report	9/03/2020 3:28:19 a.m.	Download
CVD Virtual Assessment- Patient List	9/03/2020 9:09:03 a.m.	Download
Appointment Scanner	9/03/2020 9:17:08 a.m.	Download
2020 Eligible Childhood Flu Report	9/03/2020 3:35:51 a.m.	Download
2019 Eligible Childhood Flu Report	6/03/2020 3:35:53 a.m.	Download

Billing

All children listed in the Mōhio report are eligible for a funded influenza vaccine. If two vaccines are required, funding is available for both. The Practice Nurse will tick "Auto Bill" and therefore there is no charge.

Texting and Recalls

When sending a text message about the influenza vaccine, be clear that this vaccine is free and highlight why they require the vaccine. See below for some message templates in different languages.

If you wish to get another template translated please contact Louise@aucklandpho.co.nz stating which language you would like and your message template.



English

(Child's name) is eligible for a FREE flu vaccination. Children who have been hospitalised with a respiratory condition are highly recommended to get the flu vaccine as they are more likely to develop complications if they get the flu. Call (practice phone number) to book in your appointment with the nurse. Thanks (practice name)

Maori

Tena Koe Your tamaiti (Child's name) is eligible for a FREE flu vaccination. Any tamaiti that has been to hōhipere with a mate romahā is more likely to develop raruraru if they get the whurū. It is highly recommended for your tamaiti to have a flu vaccination. Call (practice phone number) to book a whakaritenga with the tapuhi. Kia Ora Mai (practice name)

Samoan

Ua mafai nei ona agavaa (name of child/ren) mo le tui puipui o le fulū e aunoa ma se totogi. O tamaiti uma sa faapea ona taofia i le falemai ona o aafiaga i gasegase o le sela, nimonia poo nisi lava gasegase tau i le māmā, e matuai fautuaina lava ina ia faia lenei tui puipui, ona e ono maua i latou i nisi aafiaga sili atu ona tuga pe a maua i latou i le fulū.
Valaau nei loa lau fomai (name of practice) i le numera (practice phone#) mo se avanoa e vaai ai se Fomai poo se Tausi Soifua.
Faafetai (Practice name)

Tongan

(Hingoa 'o e tamasi'i pe ta'ahine) 'oku 'ata ke huhu flu ta'etotongi.
Ko e fanau ne 'osi fakatokoto 'i falemahaki mo ha mahaki felave'i mo e halanga manava' pe ma'ama'a', 'oku fu'u fiema'u ke kau ki he huhu malu'i mei he flu, he ko nautolu 'e tu'u lavea ngofua lahi ange 'o ka nau ka puke he flu.
Tā ki he fika 'o e Kiliniki (name of practice) 'o 'ai ha'o 'apoinimeni mo e Neesi.
Malo
(Hingoa 'o e Kiliniki)

For further information

Any questions or enquires please contact Louise Goodall Child Health Coordinator
email: louise@aucklandpho.co.nz
Phone: 021 246 6510

For further information on influenza please visit www.influenza.org.nz