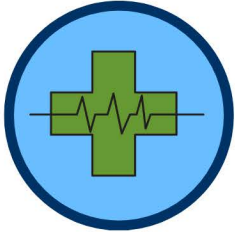


NHS Flu vaccine in Community Pharmacies



Community pharmacies

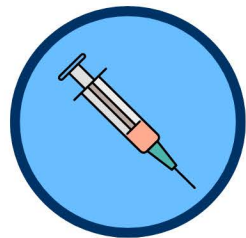
Community pharmacies are spread throughout Scotland and our network of over 1250 pharmacies reaches the whole population. A 40 year old law prevents our pharmacy teams from providing this as an NHS service.



Rising flu rates

In the winter of 2017/2018, the numbers of people suffering from the flu was **more than double that of the previous winter.**

For those with poor health, this means a real risk of hospitalisation.



Missing targets

Flu vaccination rates in Scotland are consistently well below WHO targets for priority groups, with **never more than 61% of 'at risk' adults under 65 vaccinated.**



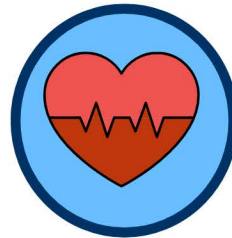
Success in England

In England over 1.17 million NHS flu vaccinations were delivered via community pharmacies between September 2017 and mid January 2018.



Amend the law

Fighting the flu effectively requires amending the law - the 1978 NHS (Scotland) Act currently prevents community pharmacists from providing the flu jab as an NHS service.



Keep Scotland as healthy as possible through effective immunisation.



NHS flu jab in your local pharmacy



Community Pharmacy Scotland (CPS) is calling for a national NHS community pharmacy vaccination service.

Unlike our colleagues in England, in Scotland community pharmacies are unable to provide NHS vaccination due to primary legislation which prevents NHS Boards from contracting with anyone other than GPs.

From the 1978 NHS (Scotland) Act:

“The Secretary of State shall have power to make arrangements with medical practitioners for the vaccination or immunisation of persons against any disease, either by medical practitioners or by persons acting under their direction and control”.

We need to improve patient access to NHS flu jabs and this means needing healthcare practitioners outside of GP surgeries being able to offer this service.

Last year, incidences of the flu more than doubled from the 2016/17 winter season, which placed even more demand upon NHS services at an incredibly busy time of the year and had serious and often fatal outcomes for individuals. Plus, typically less than half of NHS staff get vaccinated, which means the virus will undoubtedly have an impact upon the resource available to cope with increased demands.

Why we believe that community pharmacies are best placed to help

We believe that the availability of community pharmacies as a health service provider is unrivalled and would address the access difficulties that the elderly and people with health conditions may experience due to work and family commitments when trying to protect themselves from the flu. Plus, community pharmacies will always have the opportunity to ask people if they have had their flu jab when they come to pick up their prescriptions – making sure that busy people get the reminders they need to get immunised.

Many community pharmacy contractors already offer a private service, and the training to upskill the remainder would be straightforward to arrange and undertake.

Current discussion on changing vaccination services

The 2018 General Medical Services contract (the new GP contract) has presented an opportunity and stirred interest in key stakeholder groups. It has been recognised by the Scottish Government that vaccinations could be provided in a more efficient way for NHS resources (through freeing up GP time), which has led to the creation of Vaccination Transformation Programmes in every Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP).

The Scottish Government is only prepared to see a change to the legislation if it is clearly demonstrated by the NHS or Health and Social Care Partnerships that they wish to see this change implemented.