

## Influenza (Flu) Immunisation

We can only offer flu immunisation to our patients in the risk groups designated by the DOH.

The full guidance is available online at [Department of Health/Flu](#)

In summary the National policy is that influenza immunisation should be offered to:

(i) All those aged 65 years and over:

(ii) All those aged over 6 months in the following clinical risk groups:

<b>Clinical risk category</b>	<b>Examples (decision based on clinical judgement)</b>
Chronic respiratory disease, including asthma	This includes chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) including chronic bronchitis and emphysema; and such conditions as bronchiectasis, cystic fibrosis, interstitial lung fibrosis, pneumoconiosis and bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD). Asthma requiring continuous or repeated use of inhaled or systemic steroids or with previous exacerbations requiring hospital admission. Children who have previously been admitted to hospital for lower respiratory tract disease should be offered vaccination.
Chronic heart disease	This includes congenital heart disease, hypertension with cardiac complications, chronic heart failure and individuals requiring regular medication and/or follow-up for ischaemic heart disease.
Chronic renal disease	Chronic liver disease Including nephrotic syndrome, chronic renal failure, renal transplantation. Including cirrhosis.
Diabetes	Diabetes mellitus requiring insulin or oral hypoglycaemic drugs.
Immunosuppression	Due to disease or treatment. Including asplenia or splenic dysfunction, HIV infection at all stages. Patients undergoing chemotherapy leading to immunosuppression. Individuals treated with or likely to be treated with systemic steroids for more than a month at a dose equivalent to prednisolone at 20mgs or more per day (any age) or for children under 20 kgs a dose of 1mg or more per kg per day. However, some immunocompromised patients may have a suboptimal immunological response to the vaccine.

(iii) Those living in long-stay residential care homes or other long-stay care facilities where rapid spread is likely to follow introduction of infection and cause high morbidity and mortality (this does not include prisons, young offender institutions, university halls of residence etc).

(iv) Those who are the main carer for an elderly or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill. Vaccination should be given at the GP's discretion.

PLEASE NOTE: Influenza immunisation sessions usually take place in October each year.