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26 May 2015

Dear Emma

Seasonal Influenza Immunisation Scheme through Community Pharmacies

Mary Law very kindly attended the Bradford & Airedale CCG leads/NHSE/BMDC/YORLMC liaison meeting held on 18 March. At the meeting she provided an informative update on the 14/15 Seasonal Influenza Immunisation campaign for the Bradford & Airedale district.

It was also noted at the meeting that a full evaluation of the current campaign was underway. With this in mind I will be grateful if you can provide YORLMC with an update. I would also like to take this opportunity to seek your comments on the following points that were raised at the meeting held 18 March.

- GP practices have to plan carefully the number of vaccines they order from flu vaccines suppliers and this is done some 10 months ahead of the flu vaccine programme
- suppliers will only allow a small 10% tolerance on a 'sale and return' basis therefore if pharmacies are also vaccinating the same cohort of practice patients there is a risk that practices will be left with unused flu vaccines; this will represent waste and cost to the NHS and to practices as they will be unable to return unused vaccines to the vaccine supplier
- that NHSE provide a commitment to underwrite practice stocks of vaccine to avoid financial risk to practices
- that NHSE writes to practices to assess the level of vaccine waste

It remains YORLMC's preference that NHSE withdraws the seasonal influenza immunisation scheme through community pharmacies given the likelihood of practices reducing the number of vaccines ordered to limit financial risk and the resultant risk to public health.

I look forward to receiving your comments.

With best wishes



Dr Mark Brooke
Chair

cc Dr Phil Pue, Chief Clinical Officer, AWC CCG
Sue Pitkethly, Chief Operating Officer, AWC CCG

Dr Akram Khan Clinical Chair (Governing Body), City CCG
Helen Hirst, Chief Officer, City & Districts CCGs
Dr Andy Withers, Clinical Chair (Governing Body), Districts CCG
Greg Fell, Public Health Consultant, BMDC
Calderdale LMC
Kirklees LMC
Leeds LMC
Wakefield LMC
Dr Dougy Moederle-Lumb, Chief Executive, YORLMC Ltd & Chair, Alliance of West Yorkshire LMCs