



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

Health Department
Directorate of Primary Care and Community Care

St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Dear Colleague

PNEUMOCOCCAL IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME

Summary

1. This circular sets out the arrangements which will apply for reimbursing community pharmacy contractors and dispensing doctors for the supply of pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPV) in 2007-08.
2. The arrangements underline the need for co-operation between GPs and their local pharmacies to ensure optimum uptake of the vaccination programme by the target groups.

Support from General Practice

3. GPs should write "PPV" on all prescriptions or stock order forms. This is analogous to using the 'approved name' which is recommended good practice by the British National Formulary (BNF) and will ensure that PSD is able to price these items at the correct rate.

Reimbursement Arrangements

a. Stock Order

The standard method by which GPs may now obtain supplies of PPV is through the stock order system. From 1 April 2007, the reimbursement price for PPV vials written generically supplied on stock order by community pharmacy contractors **will be £8.83 plus VAT plus a £1.26 handling charge per vaccine.**

b. Prescriptions

From 1 April 2007 for PPV requested on GP10, the reimbursement rate for community pharmacy contractors **will be £8.83.**

5 February 2007

Addresses

For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards

Director of Practitioner Services,
NHS NSS

For information

Chief Executive, NHS NSS

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The standard dispensing fee will also be payable where the community pharmacy is not the subject of transitional reimbursement arrangements for 2007-08.

Dispensing doctors will be reimbursed at the £8.83 rate, plus VAT where the contractor is not registered for VAT.

c. In both cases, when the vaccine cannot be obtained at **£8.83**, community pharmacy contractors should advise SPGC, while dispensing doctors should inform their NHS Boards of supply difficulties in the standard manner. Subject to confirmation, the contractor will then be able to endorse the prescription/stock order form for payment at the manufacturer's list price.

4. The Scottish Drug Tariff is hereby amended to give effect to the contents of this circular. The ingredient cost of the vaccine will be met from NHS Board prescribing budgets. The handling fee will be met from the Pharmacy Remuneration vote line.

Ordering supplies of the vaccine

5. In placing their orders for PPV, GPs, community pharmacy contractors and dispensing doctors will need to consider the effect of publicity campaigns aimed at encouraging at risk groups to present themselves for immunisation. GPs should aim to advise the community pharmacy contractor who will be procuring vaccine on their behalf at the latest by **23 February 2007**.
6. NHS Boards will be expected to support and facilitate the implementation of this programme.
7. The terms of this circular have been agreed with SPGC and SGPC.

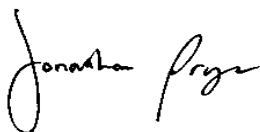
Section 17C Schemes

8. NHS Boards should review Section 17C agreements in conjunction with Section 17C providers and where necessary vary the Section 17C agreement to take account of this circular.

Action

9. **NHS Boards are asked to bring this Circular to the attention of community pharmacy contractors, Area Pharmaceutical Committees, GP practices and their Area Medical Committees.**

Yours sincerely



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Head of Primary Care Division