

Broadening access to influenza vaccinations

Pharmacist-led
services





Why vaccinate?

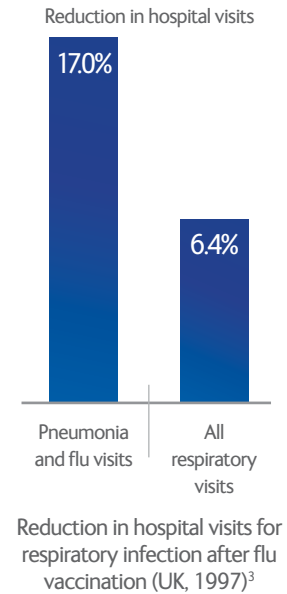
Vaccination is the cheapest and most efficient way to prevent complications and death caused by influenza (flu).

- ❖ Between 5 and 15% of the population is affected by flu every year
- ❖ Flu causes serious complications and death in the elderly and those with chronic conditions
- ❖ Flu vaccination reduces the risk of serious complications in the elderly by 70-85%¹
- ❖ Flu vaccination rates vary significantly between OECD countries
- ❖ There is an urgent need to find new ways to increase flu vaccination coverage

What are the benefits?

Pharmacist-led vaccination leads to an increased vaccination rate and a healthier population.

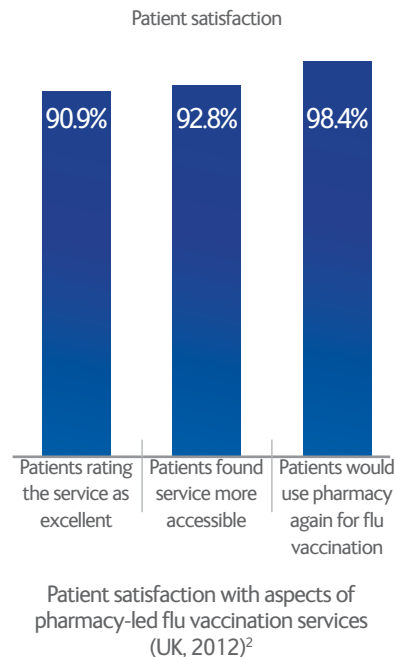
- ❖ When pharmacists can vaccinate, overall coverage of the population increases
- ❖ Pharmacist-led vaccination expands the reach of services to a wider group of people
- ❖ Up to 23% of those vaccinated in pharmacy would not otherwise have been vaccinated
- ❖ Greater vaccination coverage will lead to reduced hospital admissions and fewer deaths
- ❖ Pharmacist-led vaccination has been shown to be safe



Why use pharmacies?

Providing flu vaccinations in pharmacy makes them more accessible and convenient.

- ❖ Pharmacies are the most widely distributed healthcare facility in Europe, making vaccination accessible for patients
- ❖ Pharmacies are open for longer than medical surgeries, making them a convenient location
- ❖ Pharmacists are trusted and highly-qualified healthcare professionals
- ❖ Administering flu vaccinations in pharmacies will shorten the patient journey
- ❖ Pharmacies receive a regular supply of vaccines and minimal investment is needed to launch the service
- ❖ Customer reaction to pharmacist-led vaccinations is overwhelmingly positive
- ❖ Pharmacist-led flu vaccination exists in other countries providing best practice to adapt



What are the savings?

Providing flu vaccinations in pharmacy and increasing coverage reduces costs associated with treating flu-related complications.

- ❖ Reducing flu-related hospital admissions reduces costs to the health service
- ❖ A US study shows that flu vaccination in the elderly reduces hospital costs by 31%



Using pharmacies leads to an increase in vaccination rates

References

1. OECD health data 2012
2. NHS community pharmacy seasonal flu vaccination service – End of service evaluation report. Hampshire & Isle of Wight Local Pharmaceutical Committee, March 2011 (www.hampshirelpc.org.uk)
3. Effectiveness of influenza vaccine in reducing hospital admissions in people with diabetes. Colquhoun AJ, Nicholson KG, Botha JL, Raymond NT. *Epidemiol Infect* 1997;119:335-41.



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