

## **Guidelines for pharmacists wanting to offer influenza immunisation in 2012**

### Authorised vaccinators

1. Pharmacists wanting to offer influenza immunisation should apply to their local Medical Officer of Health to become an authorised vaccinator.
  - a) The process and standards for authorising vaccinators are described in Appendix 4 of the Immunisation Handbook.
  - b) Authorisation as a vaccinator needs to be renewed every two years.
  - c) Vaccinator training is offered by WONS ([www.wons.org.nz](http://www.wons.org.nz)) and the Immunisation Advisory Centre ([www.immune.org.nz](http://www.immune.org.nz)). Pharmacists will pay for the cost of training.
  - d) A clinical assessment is part of the authorisation process.

### Approved immunisation programmes

2. Pharmacists wanting to offer influenza immunisation should also apply to their local Medical Officer of Health seeking approval for an influenza immunisation programme.
  - a) The standards for individuals and organisations offering immunisation services are described in Appendix 3 of the Immunisation Handbook. The standards that relate only to childhood immunisations, only to fully subsidised immunisations, or to the National Immunisation Register will not apply.
  - b) Approval for an influenza programme in pharmacies will be for 2012 only.
  - c) Pharmacists who do not hold an account with Healthcare Logistics will need to apply for a credit trading account and will be subject to the normal commercial process of opening a credit facility. This may include having to provide trade references which will be checked for their credit history. This process typically takes 2-3 business days.
3. Only privately purchased influenza immunisations will be available from pharmacists. A number of issues need to be resolved before this can change:
  - a) Claiming for influenza vaccine is specifically excluded in the Pharmaceutical Schedule.
  - b) There is no agreement about the appropriate rate of subsidy.
  - c) There are no agreed mechanisms for sharing responsibility and information about immunisation among the eligible population, such as recording influenza immunisations on the National Immunisation Register.
4. New approaches to immunisation should encourage clinical integration and collaboration between providers to increase the pool of vaccinators, improve access to immunisation, and deliver improved services.
  - a) Describing how primary care providers will be notified about immunisations will be part of the application process.
  - b) If the individual consents, the vaccinator will notify the individual's usual primary care provider in a way that is agreed locally to be efficient for both parties and minimises the need to re-enter data.
  - c) Pharmacists will inform people of the eligibility criteria for subsidised immunisation, which are available at <http://influenza.org.nz/?t=887>, and that those who are eligible can get free immunisation from a general practitioner.