

**From the Chief Medical Officer**  
Dr Michael McBride



Department of  
**Health**  
An Roinn Sláinte  
Máinnystrie O Poustie  
[www.health-ni.gov.uk](http://www.health-ni.gov.uk)

**HSS(MD) 64/2021 (ADDENDUM)**

For Action:

Chief Executives, Public Health Agency/Health and  
Social Care Board/HSC Trusts/NIAS  
GP Medical Advisers, Health and Social Care Board  
All General Practitioners and GP Locums (*for onward  
distribution to practice staff*)

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Your Ref:  
Our Ref: HSS(MD) 64/2021  
Date: 1 October 2021

Dear Colleague

**ADDENDUM TO HSS (MD) 64/2021  
SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION PROGRAMME**

**Suitability of aQIV for those aged 65 years and over allergic to latex**

**ACTION REQUIRED**

**Public Flu Vaccination Programme**

Chief Executives must ensure this information is drawn to the attention of all staff involved in the seasonal flu vaccination programme, including:

- school health teams, health visitors, community children nurses, and paediatricians
- physicians managing patients with chronic medical conditions, oncologists, geriatricians, district nurses, treatment room nurses
- midwives, obstetricians
- Occupational Health Departments, Trust Peer Vaccinators

The HSCB must ensure this information is cascaded to all General Practitioners and practice managers for onward distribution to all staff involved in the seasonal flu vaccination programme.

1. This is an addendum to the seasonal influenza vaccination programme letter issued on 15 September 2021.
2. The purpose of this letter is to clarify that the adjuvanted Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine (aQIV) which should be offered to all those aged 65 years and over is NOT suitable for egg allergic people but IS suitable for latex allergic people.

In summary, the recommended vaccine for the national flu immunisation programme for adults aged 65 years and over:

3. These patients should be offered an adjuvanted quadrivalent influenza vaccine (aQIV).
4. An adjuvanted Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine (aQIV) will be available and should be offered to all those aged 65 years and over. aQIV vaccine is only licensed for those aged 65 years and over. The aQIV is NOT suitable for egg allergic people. In these instances the cell-based (QIVc) Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine can be given.
5. Flud Tetra (aQIV) and Flucelvax Tetra (QIVc) are supplied in single-dose prefilled syringes, with a plunger stopper (bromobutyl rubber), with attached needles. None of the components of this staked needle prefilled syringe presentation that are in direct contact with the vaccine (syringe barrel, plunger and rubber stopper) are made with natural rubber latex. The needle shield for Flud Tetra and Flucelvax Tetra contains natural rubber latex. The risk of allergy is extremely small and is considered to be safe in those patients that have latex allergy/latex anaphylaxis.

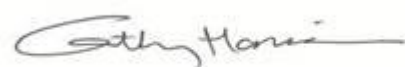
Yours sincerely



**Prof Sir Michael McBride**  
Chief Medical Officer



**Prof Charlotte McArdle**  
Chief Nursing Officer



**Mrs Cathy Harrison**  
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

### **Circulation List**

Director of Public Health/Medical Director, Public Health Agency (*for onward distribution to all relevant health protection staff*)

Assistant Director Public Health (Health Protection), Public Health Agency

Director of Nursing, Public Health Agency

Assistant Director of Pharmacy and Medicines Management, Health and Social Care Board (*for onward distribution to Community Pharmacies*)

Directors of Pharmacy HSC Trusts

Director of Social Care and Children, HSCB

Family Practitioner Service Leads, Health and Social Care Board (*for cascade to GP Out of Hours services*)

Medical Directors, HSC Trusts (*for onward distribution to all Consultants, Occupational Health Physicians and School Medical Leads*)

Nursing Directors, HSC Trusts (*for onward distribution to all Community Nurses, and Midwives*)

Directors of Children's Services, HSC Trusts

RQIA (*for onward transmission to all independent providers including independent hospitals*)

Medicines Management Pharmacists, HSC Board (*for cascade to prescribing advisers*)

Regional Medicines Information Service, Belfast HSC Trust

Regional Pharmaceutical Procurement Service, Northern HSC Trust

Professor Donna Fitzsimons, Head of School of Nursing and Midwifery QUB

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Learning and Development, QUB  
Joe Brogan, Assistant Director of Integrated Care, HSCB  
Michael Donaldson, Head of Dental Services, HSCB (for distribution to all  
General Dental Practitioners)  
Raymond Curran, Head of Ophthalmic Services, HSCB (*for distribution to Community  
Optometrists*)  
Trade Union Side  
Clinical Advisory Team  
Louise McMahon, Director of Integrated Care, HSCB

This letter is available on the Department of Health website at

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/professional-medical-and-environmental-health-advice/hssmd-letters-and-urgent-communications>

