



Administration of inactivated influenza vaccine 2025/26 season

Patient group direction (PGD) template

NPGD 25 332

Publication date: 18 August 2025



Translations



Easy read



BSL



Audio



Large print



Braille

Translations and other formats are available on request at:

 p hs.otherformats@p hs.scot

Public Health Scotland is Scotland's national agency for improving and protecting the health and wellbeing of Scotland's people.

© Public Health Scotland 2025



This publication is licensed for re-use under the [Open Government Licence v3.0](#).

For more information, visit
www.publichealthscotland.scot/ogl

www.publichealthscotland.scot

Most recent changes

Version	Date	Summary of changes
2.0	18 August 2025	The following changes to the 2024/25 season PGD have been made: • dates changed for 2025/26 season. • Replacement of adjuvanted quadrivalent inactivated vaccine with adjuvanted trivalent inactivated vaccine (aTIV) following JCVI recommendation. • Replacement of cell-based quadrivalent influenza vaccine with cell-based trivalent influenza vaccine (TIVc) following JCVI recommendation. • Exclusion and Caution/need for further advice sections updated in relation to egg allergy and ovalbumin content • Co-administration with other vaccines sub-section updated to remove reference to co-administration of COVID-19 vaccines with RSV vaccine. • Name of medicine/form/strength section updated to advise those otherwise eligible for aTIV with a history of egg allergy, including anaphylaxis, should be offered TIVc due to ovalbumin content of aTIV. • Frequency section updated in relation to second dose for some children that are household contacts of an immunocompromised individual • Is the use out with SmPC section updated to remove reference to use of aQIV in 64 year olds and addition of interchangeability of LAIV and inactivated products added. • 2.4 Frequency section updated to detail that interchangeability of LAIV and inactivated

Version	Date	Summary of changes
		influenza vaccine applies to children aged 2 years or older • Appendix A updated in accordance with company queries.

Contents

Most recent changes	1
Authorisation	4
1. Clinical situation	5
2. Description of treatment	9
3. Adverse reactions	14
4. Characteristics of staff authorised under the PGD	17
5. Audit trail	19
6. Additional references	20
7. PGD for administration of influenza vaccine (inactivated) for 2025/26 season – authorisation v2.0 (valid from 1 September 2025 and expires 31 August 2026): authorisation	21
8. Version history	23
9. Appendix 1: Seasonal Influenza Vaccine PGDs 2025-26 – UK Licensed Influenza Vaccines	24

Authorisation

PGD administration of inactivated influenza vaccine

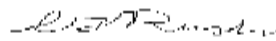
This specimen Patient Group Direction (PGD) template has been produced by Public Health Scotland to assist NHS Boards. NHS Boards should ensure that the final PGD is considered and approved in line with local clinical governance arrangements for PGDs.

The qualified health professionals who may administer inactivated influenza vaccine under this PGD can only do so as named individuals. It is the responsibility of each professional to practice within the bounds of their own competence and in accordance with their own Code of Professional Conduct and to ensure familiarity with the manufacturer's product information/Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) for all vaccines administered in accordance with this PGD.

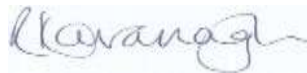
NHS Board governance arrangements will indicate how records of staff authorised to operate this PGD will be maintained. Under PGD legislation there can be no delegation. Administration of the vaccine has to be by the same practitioner who has assessed the patient under the PGD.

Approved on behalf of NHS Ayrshire and Arran by:

Lynne Rush, Consultant in Public Health Medicine



Roisin Kavanagh, Pharmacy Director



Susan Wilson, Chief Nurse (Immunisation)



Iain Fulton, Deputy PGD Chair



Date approved: 29th August 2025

Valid from: 1 September 2025

Expiry date: 31 August 2026

1. Clinical situation

1.1. Indication

Active immunisation against disease caused by influenza virus in line with Scottish Government immunisation programme and JCVI advice/recommendations as set out in Green Book **Chapter 19** and subsequent correspondence/publications from Scottish Government.

1.2. Inclusion criteria

Valid consent has been given to receive the vaccine.

Vaccine should be offered to individuals invited, or eligible in accordance with the recommendations in Green Book **Chapter 19**, and/or in line with **Scottish Government seasonal influenza vaccination programme** and subsequent correspondence/publications from Scottish Government.

National policy must be followed in relation to the groups eligible for vaccination at a particular point in time.

Individuals who have received a haematopoietic stem cell transplant or CAR-T therapy and who require revaccination, in accordance with the **Scottish Haematology Society Revaccination Schedule**.

1.3. Exclusion criteria

Individuals who:

- Are aged under 6 months.
- Have had a confirmed anaphylactic reaction to a previous dose of influenza vaccine.

- Have had a confirmed anaphylactic reaction to any component of influenza vaccine (other than ovalbumin – see Cautions/ need for further advice/ circumstances when further advice should be sought from a doctor section). Different brands may contain traces of neomycin, kanamycin, formaldehyde and other excipients – practitioners must check the marketing authorisation holder’s SmPC for the particular brand.
- have a history of severe (i.e. anaphylactic reaction) to latex where the vaccine is not latex free, including syringe, tip and plunger.
- Are suffering from an acute febrile illness (the presence of a minor infection is not a contraindication for immunisation).

1.4. Cautions/need for further advice/circumstances when further advice should be sought from a doctor

The Green Book advises that there are very few individuals who cannot receive inactivated influenza vaccine. Where there is doubt, rather than withholding vaccination, appropriate advice should be sought from the relevant specialist, or from the local immunisation coordinator or health protection team.

The presence of a neurological condition is not a contraindication to immunisation but if there is evidence of current neurological deterioration, deferral of vaccination may be considered, to avoid incorrect attribution of any change in the underlying condition. The risk of such deferral should be balanced against the risk of the preventable infection, and vaccination should be promptly given once the diagnosis and/or the expected course of the condition becomes clear.

Individuals with egg allergy or severe anaphylaxis to egg who would otherwise be eligible for aTIV should be offered cell-based trivalent influenza vaccine (TIVc) due to the ovalbumin content of aTIV.

Co-administration with other vaccines

Inactivated influenza vaccine can be given at the same time as other vaccines including COVID-19 vaccines.

In older adults it is recommended that RSV vaccine is not routinely scheduled to be given at the same appointment or on the same day as an influenza vaccine. No specific interval is required between administering the vaccines. If it is thought that the individual is unlikely to return for a second appointment or immediate protection is necessary, RSV vaccine can be administered at the same time as influenza vaccination.

When administering at the same time as other vaccines, care should be taken to ensure that the appropriate route of injection is used for all the vaccinations. The vaccines should be given at separate sites, preferably in different limbs. If given in the same limb, they should be given at least 2.5cm apart. The site at which each vaccine was given should be noted in the individual's records.

Syncope

Syncope (fainting) can occur following, or even before, any vaccination especially in adolescents as a psychogenic response to the needle injection. This can be accompanied by several neurological signs such as transient visual disturbance, paraesthesia and tonic-clonic limb movements during recovery. It is important that procedures are in place to avoid injury from faints.

1.5 Action if excluded

Specialist advice must be sought on the vaccine and circumstances under which it could be given. Immunisation using a patient specific direction may be indicated. The risk to the individual of not being immunised must be taken into account.

Document the reason for exclusion and any action taken in accordance with local procedures.

Inform or refer to the clinician in charge.

In case of postponement due to acute severe febrile illness, advise when the individual can be vaccinated and ensure another appointment is arranged.

1.6. Action if patient declines

Advise the individual about the protective effects of the vaccine, the risks of infection and potential complications of disease.

Advise how future immunisation may be accessed if they subsequently decide to receive the vaccine.

Document advice given and decision reached.

Inform or refer to the clinician in charge.

2. Description of treatment

2.1. Name of medicine/form/strength

Name of medicine

Inactivated influenza vaccine suspension for injection in a pre-filled syringe, including:

- adjuvanted trivalent influenza vaccine (aTIV) (Seqirus vaccines).
- cell-based trivalent influenza vaccine (TIVc) (Seqirus vaccines).

Eligible Group and current recommended influenza vaccine for national programme:

Aged 65 years and over (including those 64-year-olds who are 65 years old by 31 March 2026)

Offer Adjuvanted trivalent influenza vaccine (aTIV)

For individuals with egg allergy or severe anaphylaxis to egg who would otherwise be eligible for aTIV:

Offer Cell-based trivalent influenza vaccine (TIVc) (Seqirus vaccines)

Eligible individuals aged from six months to under 65 years

Offer Cell-based trivalent influenza vaccine (TIVc) (Seqirus vaccines).

Revaccination of individuals who have received a haemopoietic stem cell transplant or CAR-T treatment

Please refer to age-based recommendation for vaccine choice as set out above.

2.2. Route of administration

Administer by Intramuscular injection.

The preferred site for children older than 12 months or adults is deltoid area of upper arm. The preferred site for infants is anterolateral thigh.

Adjuvanted trivalent influenza vaccine (aTIV) (Seqirus vaccines) and cell-based trivalent influenza vaccine (TIVc) (Seqirus vaccines)) must only be administered via the intramuscular route.

Individuals on stable anticoagulation therapy, including individuals on warfarin who are up-to-date with their scheduled INR testing and whose latest INR was below the upper threshold of their therapeutic range, can receive intramuscular vaccination. A fine needle (23 or 25 gauge) should be used for the vaccination, followed by firm pressure applied to the site (without rubbing) for at least 2 minutes. If in any doubt, consult with the clinician responsible for prescribing or monitoring the individual's anticoagulant therapy. Individuals with bleeding disorders may be vaccinated intramuscularly if, in the opinion of a doctor familiar with the individual's bleeding risk, vaccines or similar small volume intramuscular injections can be administered with reasonable safety by this route. If the individual receives medication/treatment to reduce bleeding, for example treatment for haemophilia, intramuscular vaccination can be scheduled shortly after such medication/treatment is administered. A fine needle (23 or 25 gauge) should be used for the vaccination, followed by firm pressure applied to the site (without rubbing) for at least 2 minutes. The individual/parent/carer should be informed about the risk of haematoma from the injection.

The vaccine should be visually inspected for particulate matter and discolouration prior to administration. In the event of any foreign particulate matter and/or variation of physical aspect being observed, do not administer the vaccine.

2.3. Dosage

0.5ml

2.4. Frequency

Single dose.

Children aged six months to less than nine years who are in clinical risk groups or are a household contact of an immunocompromised individual who have not received influenza vaccine before should receive a second dose of vaccine at least four weeks after the first dose.

LAIV and the inactivated influenza vaccines are interchangeable; a second dose, if required, should be given at least 4 weeks after the first dose in accordance with the manufacturer's SmPC for that vaccine. For those children aged 2 years or older that have received LAIV and require a second influenza dose, this PGD authorises the use of TIVc as the second dose where LAIV is unavailable or considered unsuitable.

Children aged six months to less than nine years who are not in clinical risk groups or not a household contact of an immunocompromised individual should be offered a single dose, even if they have not previously received influenza vaccine.

Revaccination of individuals who have received a haemopoietic stem cell transplant or CAR-T treatment

In accordance with the schedule recommended by the Scottish Haematology Society

Revaccination of patients following haematopoietic stem cell transplant or CAR-T treatment

2.5. Duration of treatment

See above.

2.6. Maximum or minimum treatment period

See above.

2.7. Quantity to supply/administer

See above.

2.8. ▼ black triangle medicines

Yes, the following vaccines are ▼:

Cell-based trivalent influenza vaccine ▼ (TIVc) (Seqirus vaccines).

Adjuvanted trivalent influenza vaccine ▼ (aTIV) (Seqirus vaccines).

This information was accurate at the time of writing. See product SmPCs at www.medicines.org.uk for indication of current black triangle status.

2.9. Legal category

Prescription only medicine (POM).

2.10. Is the use outwith the SmPC?

Yes.

LAIV and the inactivated influenza vaccines are interchangeable and this PGD authorises the use of TIVc as the second dose where LAIV is unavailable or considered unsuitable. This is off-label administration in line with advice in **Chapter 19 of the Green Book**.

The SmPC for TIVc recommends 2 doses for those children aged 6 months to less than 9 years of age where the child has not previously been vaccinated against influenza. The Green Book recommendation for a single dose of influenza vaccine in children not in a clinical risk group supersedes this SmPC.

Revaccination of individuals following haematopoietic stem cell transplant or CAR-T treatment is considered off-label but is in accordance with the **Scottish Haematology Society schedule**.

Where a vaccine is recommended off-label consider, as part of the consent process, informing the individual/parent/carer that the vaccine is being offered in accordance with national guidance but that this is outside the product licence.

Vaccine should be stored according to the conditions detailed below. However, in the event of an inadvertent or unavoidable deviation of these conditions refer to NHS Board guidance on storage and handling of vaccines or Vaccine Incident Guidance. Where vaccine is assessed in accordance with these guidelines as appropriate for continued use, administration under this PGD is allowed.

2.11. Storage requirements

Vaccine should be stored at a temperature of +2° to +8°C.

Store in the original packaging to protect from light.

Do not freeze.

NHS Board guidance on storage and handling of vaccines should be observed.

In the event of an inadvertent or unavoidable deviation of these conditions, vaccine that has been stored outside the conditions stated above should be quarantined and risk assessed for suitability of continued off-label use or appropriate disposal.

2.12. Additional information

Minor illnesses without fever or systemic upset are not valid reasons to postpone immunisation. If an individual is acutely unwell, immunisation may be postponed until they have fully recovered.

3. Adverse reactions

3.1. Warnings including possible adverse reactions and management of these

Pain, swelling or redness at the injection site, low grade fever, malaise, shivering, fatigue, headache, aching muscles and joint pain are among the commonly reported symptoms after vaccination. A small painless nodule (induration) may also appear at the injection site. These symptoms usually disappear within one to two days without treatment.

For full details/information on possible side effects, refer to the marketing authorisation holder's SmPC.

As with all vaccines there is a very small possibility of anaphylaxis and facilities for its management must be available.

In the event of a severe adverse reaction individual should be advised to seek medical advice.

3.2. Reporting procedure for adverse reactions

Healthcare professionals and individuals/carers should report suspected adverse reactions to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) using the Yellow Card reporting scheme on <https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>

Any adverse reaction to a vaccine should be documented in accordance with locally agreed procedures in the individual's record and the individual's GP should be informed.

3.3. Advice to patient or carer including written information

Written information to be given to individual:

- Provide manufacturer's consumer information leaflet/patient information leaflet (PIL) provided with the vaccine.
- Immunisation promotional material may be provided as appropriate

Individual advice/follow-up treatment:

- Inform the individual/carers of possible side effects and their management.
- The individual should be advised to seek medical advice in the event of a severe adverse reaction.
- Inform the individual that they can report suspected adverse reactions to the MHRA using the Yellow Card reporting scheme on <https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>
- Give general advice relating to good hygiene practice to prevent the spread of germs – always have tissues to hand, use a clean tissue to cover your mouth and nose when you cough and/or sneeze, bin any tissue after one use, wash your hands with soap and hot water or a sanitiser gel often.
- When applicable, advise individual/parent/carers when the subsequent dose is due.

3.4. Observation following vaccination

As syncope (fainting) can occur following vaccination, all vaccinees should either be driven by someone else or should not drive for 15 minutes after vaccination.

Following immunisation, patients remain under observation in line with NHS Board policy.

3.5. Follow up

As above.

3.6. Additional facilities

A protocol for the management of anaphylaxis and an anaphylaxis pack must always be available whenever vaccines are given. Immediate treatment should include early treatment with intramuscular adrenaline, with an early call for help and further IM adrenaline every 5 minutes. The health professionals overseeing the immunisation service must be trained to recognise an anaphylactic reaction and be familiar with techniques for resuscitation of a patient with anaphylaxis.

4. Characteristics of staff authorised under the PGD

4.1. Professional qualifications

The following classes of registered healthcare practitioners are permitted to administer this vaccine:

- nurses and midwives currently registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).
- pharmacists currently registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC).
- pharmacy technicians currently registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC)
- chiropodists/podiatrists, dieticians, occupational therapists, orthoptists, orthotists/prosthetists, paramedics, physiotherapists, radiographers and speech and language therapists currently registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).
- dental hygienists and dental therapists registered with the General Dental Council.
- optometrists registered with the General Optical Council.

4.2. Specialist competencies or qualifications

Persons must only work under this PGD where they are competent to do so.

All persons operating this PGD:

- must be authorised by name by their employer as an approved person under the current terms of this PGD before working to it.

- must be familiar with the vaccine product and alert to changes in the manufacturer's product information/SmPC.
- must be competent to undertake immunisation and to discuss issues related to immunisation to assess patients for vaccination and obtain consent.
- must be competent in the correct storage of vaccines and management of the cold chain if receiving, responsible for, or handling the vaccine.
- must be competent in the recognition and management of anaphylaxis or under the supervision of persons able to respond appropriately to immediate adverse reactions.
- must have access to the PGD and associated online resources.
- should fulfil any additional requirements defined by local policy.

Employer

The employer is responsible for ensuring that persons have the required knowledge and skills to safely deliver the activity they are employed to provide under this PGD.

As a minimum, competence requirements stipulated in the PGD must be adhered to.

4.3. Continuing education and training

All practitioners operating under the PGD are responsible for ensuring they remain up to date with the use of vaccines included.

If any training needs are identified these should be discussed with the individuals in the organisation responsible for authorising individuals to act under this PGD.

5. Audit trail

Record:

- that valid informed consent was given
- name of individual, address, date of birth and GP with whom the individual is registered
- name of person that undertook assessment of individual's clinical suitability and subsequently administered the vaccine
- name and brand of vaccine
- date of administration
- dose, form and route of administration of vaccine
- batch number
- where possible expiry date
- anatomical site of vaccination
- advice given, including advice given if excluded or declines immunisation
- details of any adverse drug reactions and actions taken
- administered under PGD

Records should be kept in line with local procedures.

Local policy should be followed to encourage information sharing with the individual's General Practice.

All records should be clear, legible and contemporaneous and in an easily retrievable format.

6. Additional references

Practitioners operating the PGD must be familiar with:

- **Immunisation against Infectious Disease [Green Book]**
- **Immunisation against Infectious Disease [Green Book] chapter 19**
- Current edition of British National Formulary (BNF) and BNF for children
- **Marketing authorisation holder's Summary of Product Characteristics**
- **Educational resources for registered professionals produced by National Education for Scotland**
- All relevant Scottish Government advice including the relevant CMO letter(s)
- **Professional Guidance on the Administration of Medicines in Healthcare Settings 2019**
- **Professional Guidance on the Safe and Secure Handling of Medicines**
- **Scottish Haematology Society advice on the revaccination of patients following haematopoietic stem cell transplant or CAR-T treatment**

7. PGD for administration of influenza vaccine (inactivated) for 2025/26 season – authorisation v2.0 (valid from 1 September 2025 and expires 31 August 2026): authorisation

Practitioner

This PGD does not remove professional obligations and accountability. It is the responsibility of each professional to practice within the bounds of their own competence and in accordance with their Code of Professional Conduct and to ensure familiarity with the marketing authorisation holder's SmPC for all vaccines administered in accordance with this PGD.

By signing this Patient Group Direction, you are indicating that you agree to its contents and that you will work within it.

I agree to administer influenza vaccine (inactivated) vaccine only in accordance with this PGD.

Name of professional	Signature	Date

Authorising manager

I confirm that the practitioners named above have declared themselves suitably trained and competent to work under this PGD. I give authorisation on behalf of **[insert name of organisation]** for the above-named health care professionals who have signed the PGD to work under it.

Lead clinician for the service area:

Name

Signature

Date

Authorised staff should be provided with an individual copy of the clinical content of the PGD and a photocopy of the document showing their authorisation. This authorisation sheet should be retained to serve as a record of those practitioners authorised to work under this PGD.

8. Version history

Version	Date	Summary of changes
2.0	18 August 2025	The following changes to the 2024/25 season PGD have been made: • dates changed for 2025/26 season. • Replacement of adjuvanted quadrivalent inactivated vaccine with adjuvanted trivalent inactivated vaccine (aTIV) following JCVI recommendation. • Replacement of cell-based quadrivalent influenza vaccine with cell-based trivalent influenza vaccine (TIVc) following JCVI recommendation. • Exclusion and Caution/need for further advice sections updated in relation to egg allergy and ovalbumin content • Co-administration with other vaccines sub-section updated to remove reference to co-administration of COVID-19 vaccines with RSV vaccine. • Name of medicine/form/strength section updated to advise those otherwise eligible for aTIV with a history of egg allergy, including anaphylaxis, should be offered TIVc due to ovalbumin content of aTIV. • Frequency section updated in relation to second dose for some children that are household contacts of an immunocompromised individual • Is the use out with SmPC section updated to remove reference to use of aQIV in 64 year olds and addition of interchangeability of LAIV and inactivated products added. • 2.4 Frequency section updated to detail that interchangeability of LAIV and inactivated influenza vaccine applies to children aged 2 years or older • Appendix A updated in accordance with company queries.

9. Appendix 1: Seasonal influenza vaccine PGDs 2025–26 – UK licensed influenza vaccines

Manufacture/ supplier	Name of product	Vaccine type	Age indication	Ovalbumin content	Latex/ Formaldehyde/ Other	Amino- glycosides
AstraZeneca UK Ltd	Fluenz LAIV	Trivalent live attenuated influenza vaccine – nasal spray suspension	From 24 months to less than 18 years of age	Less than 0.024 micrograms per 0.2 ml dose	Latex free Contains gelatin (porcine) Formaldehyde free	Gentamicin ¹
Seqirus	Cell-based Trivalent Influenza Vaccine (Surface Antigen, Inactivated) Seqirus suspension (TIVc)	Cell grown trivalent influenza vaccine – surface antigen inactivated prepared in cell cultures	From six months	Not applicable – egg free	Latex free Formaldehyde free	Not applicable
Seqirus	Adjuvanted Trivalent Influenza Vaccine (Surface Antigen, Inactivated) Seqirus suspension for injection (ATIV)	Adjuvanted trivalent influenza vaccine – surface antigen, inactivated – adjuvanted with MF59C.1	From 65 years	Equal to or less than 1 micrograms per 0.5 ml dose	Latex free Risk of formaldehyde residue	Kanamycin ¹ Neomycin ¹

Notes

None of the influenza vaccines for the 2025-26 season contain thiomersal as an added preservative.

¹ Cross sensitivity to aminoglycosides is common, assume potential reaction for all, if allergic response to one has been demonstrated.

Ovalbumin, latex and aminoglycoside content for vaccines are correct as at 22 May 2025, however, these may be subject to change in manufacturing practice at any time.