Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme (VPDP)

2017-18 Cluster support scheme

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1 Background

GP practices in NHS Wales are allocated to small groups of practices (clusters) working together with partners across health and social care. The cluster development programme in Wales is supported by the GMS contract, and aims to encourage collaboration between local GP practices to improve services and sustainability. There are currently 64 clusters in Wales and they vary in size between 4 and 12 practices.

Flu vaccine uptake remains suboptimal in Wales with uptake failing to reach Welsh Government targets across eligible groups. There is wide variation in uptake between practices, clusters and health boards (HBs).

Public Health Wales VPDP has offered cluster support schemes as part of the annual flu campaign for the last two flu seasons. Two clusters were recruited in 2015-16, and in 2016-17 there were nine.

The schemes aimed to encourage and support cluster working to maximise uptake of flu vaccine in eligible groups, however data has been inconclusive. One aim of the 2016-17 scheme was to inform the content of a Good Practice Guide for Clusters in the flu campaign however more information is needed to ensure it is robust and fit for purpose.

The 2017-18 cluster support scheme will broadly follow the model utilised in previous schemes but focus on a specific target group; the morbidly obese.

2 Aims

The 2017-18 cluster support scheme will build on lessons learned and feedback from the previous schemes and aims to:
• Encourage and support cluster working to increase and maximise uptake of flu vaccine in one risk group: morbid obesity (Adults with a body mass index (BMI) of 40 or above)

• Identify key elements for a Good Practice Guide for Clusters

3 Plan of work
All clusters in Wales will be invited to join the 2017-18 VPDP cluster support scheme. Initial expressions of interest will be sought, and if interest is sufficient, an all Wales meeting with interested cluster leads will be held to share documentation and encourage recruitment.

An application form is available at http://www.immunisation.wales.nhs.uk/flu–gp–schemes–and–resources applications should be emailed to lisa.verallo@wales.nhs.uk.

The closing date for applications to the scheme is 4th September 2017.

It is anticipated a maximum of 25% (16 clusters) will be accepted onto the scheme.

Each cluster accepted into the scheme will appoint a cluster flu lead who will be expected to:

• Support practices within the cluster to identify a practice flu champion

• Support all cluster practices, with priority given to the practices with lowest flu vaccine uptake within the cluster

• Share flu and flu vaccine information, and examples of good practice with each practice flu champion regularly in a timely way

• Complete an end of season report for their cluster using the template provided

The cluster flu lead will be provided with all necessary documentation and a grant payment of £500 is available for the cluster flu lead successfully recruited on submission of their end of season report.

Each practice within the cluster is expected to identify a practice flu champion who will:

• Demonstrate leadership and active support of the flu campaign within the practice

• Increase awareness and uptake of flu vaccine in morbidly obese adult patients

• Increase practice staff awareness of morbid obesity as an eligible flu ‘risk group’

• Complete an end of season report for their practice using the template provided

A grant payment of £100 is available for each practice flu champion successfully recruited in accepted clusters on submission of their end of season report.
Regular correspondence and support from VPDP will include resources and ways to raise awareness of flu vaccine eligibility of this group in staff, and for clusters/practices to raise awareness with the client group themselves, including advice on difficult conversations.

Advice on best practice in removing barriers to access will also be incorporated into VPDP correspondence, and advice.

End of season feedback using the standardised documentation is a requirement of each cluster flu lead and practice flu champion. Payment will be made on timely receipt of all necessary reports of the required standard.

Routine vaccine uptake data will be utilised to describe uptake between practices and clusters. This will also require further analysis by the surveillance team as the data will be analysed in this clinical risk group and uptake between clusters in the scheme and clusters outside the scheme described and compared. Further analyses will consider impact of the scheme on uptake.

A final report summarising findings, experiences and recommendations will be shared by Public Health Wales.

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<th>Proposed timing</th>
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<tr>
<td>Design scheme</td>
<td>July 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop documentation</td>
<td>July-Aug 2017</td>
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<td>Launch scheme</td>
<td>Aug 2017</td>
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<td>Recruit</td>
<td>Aug 2017</td>
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<td>Share documentation</td>
<td>Aug 2017</td>
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<td>Support</td>
<td>Aug 2017-March 2018</td>
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<td>Collect information</td>
<td>February 2018</td>
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<td>Issue grant payments</td>
<td>March 2018</td>
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<td>Analyse data</td>
<td>July 2018</td>
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<td>Report findings</td>
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<td>Develop a good practice guide for clusters</td>
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Any question or queries regarding this scheme should be emailed to phwvaccines@wales.nhs.uk