**Covid19 and Influenza Vaccinations Autumn/Winter 23 Boosters for Long Term Inpatients**

Following on from the spring campaign, the JCVI has recommended a move to regular, planned and targeted boosting as the most important strategy to control COVID-19. For the 2023 autumn/winter programme, the primary objective is to augment immunity in those at higher risk from COVID-19 and thereby optimise protection against severe COVID-19, specifically hospitalisation and death, over winter 2023/24. Additionally these patients can also receive the influenza vaccination.

The following groups relevant to this proposal should be offered a COVID-19 booster vaccine in the autumn/winter of 2023:

● those aged 65 years and over

● those aged 6 months to 64 years in a clinical risk group as defined in Green Book Chapter 14a: Covid-19

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1057798/Greenbook-chapter-14a-28Feb22.pdf>

Those eligible for NHS flu vaccine in 2022/23 are:

• those aged 65 years and over

• those aged 6 months to under 65 years in clinical risk groups (as defined by the influenza chapter in ‘Immunisation against infectious disease’ (the ‘Green Book’)

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1107978/Influenza-green-book-chapter19-16September22.pdf>

Within UHSx there are several long stay units where eligible patients will continue various forms of treatment and rehabilitation as inpatients for more than 21 days. These patients have no access to any other healthcare facilities and all their healthcare needs are met within these units. Breakdown of the units and number of beds within is below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Rehab Unit | No of Beds (approx.) |
| SRH | 12 |
| Newtimber (SRC) | 22 |
| Lindfield (SRC) | 22 |
| Newhaven | 32 |

Provision is also made for long stay inpatients on acute general and speciality wards. The management of Covid19 vaccination will be managed by the lead/senior ward nurses in collaboration with medics and pharmacists to enable cohorting of such patients for improved vaccine stock management.

Therefore we are proposing a limited rollout vaccination programme to these patients using the below criteria for eligibility:

- Long stay inpatient at the trust with no means of accessing vaccine in any other way

- >21 days as an inpatient

- Not acutely unwell. If acutely unwell, to differ vaccination until recovered

- >3 months since their last dose (for Covid19 Vaccination)

This will be incorporated within daily clinical/ward activity and is not additionally resourced.