
All District Health Boards

16 March 2020

Dear PHO Chief Executive Officers

2020 Influenza Immunisation Campaign

The 2020 influenza immunisation campaign will play an important part in the response to help manage Covid-19. An urgent PSAAP meeting was held this morning to discuss how the 2020 campaign can best assist in the Covid-19 response. Various changes were agreed. Firstly, the 2020 Campaign will commence on 16 March 2020, rather than 1 April 2020.

Second, the 2020 influenza immunisation campaign will make its best contribution to management of Covid-19 if patients who are eligible to receive a funded influenza immunisation (as per PHARMAC's online [Immunisation Schedule](#)), and healthcare workers, have priority over other persons who wish to receive the influenza vaccination. Accordingly, for the first four weeks of the influenza campaign (16 March to 13 April), funded Eligible Service Users and healthcare workers (whether or not they are funded) will be prioritised, with other persons receiving the influenza vaccine after 13 April 2020.

DHBs also recognise concerns about existing funding for immunisation services. Work to review funding for immunisation services continues. However, in the meantime and as agreed by PSAAP earlier today, DHBs will increase all immunisation fees paid under the PHO Services Agreement by 2%, effective from 16 March 2020.

The effect of the above is that, from 16 March 2020:

- the amounts paid under paragraphs 3 (1), (2), (3) and (4)(a) of Schedule F1.3 will be \$21.80 (GST exclusive);
- the amount paid under paragraph 3 (4)(b) of Schedule F1.3 of the PHOSA will be \$15.30 (GST exclusive); and
- for the period up to 13 April 2020 the administration of the influenza vaccine to Eligible Services Users who meet the criteria for funded Influenza Vaccine on the Pharmaceutical Schedule and healthcare workers (whether or not they are funded) will take priority over the administration of the influenza vaccine to any other person.

These increased fees are a permanent change to the Immunisation Administration Fees and will be reflected in the next variation to the PHO Services Agreement.

If you have any questions, please contact your local DHB portfolio manager.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Chamberlain". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and "C".

Dr Nick Chamberlain
Chief Executive, Northland District Health Board
Lead District Health Board Chief Executive for Primary Care and Public Health

cc: GMs Planning and Funding, All DHBs
Primary Care Portfolio Managers, All DHBs