

Annex A: Groups included in this advanced service

This service covers those patients most at risk from influenza **aged 18 years and older**, as listed below.

The selection of these eligible groups has been informed by the target list from the annual [Flu Letter](#) and Immunisation against infectious disease: The [Green Book](#).

Eligible groups	Further details
All people aged 65 years or over	Including those becoming age 65 years by 31 March 2025.
People aged from 18 years to less than 65 years of age with one or more serious medical condition(s) outlined below:	
Chronic (long term) respiratory disease, such as severe asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or bronchitis	Asthma that requires continuous or repeated use of inhaled or systemic steroids or with previous exacerbations requiring hospital admission. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) including chronic bronchitis and emphysema; bronchiectasis, cystic fibrosis, interstitial lung fibrosis, pneumoconiosis and bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD).
Chronic heart disease, such as heart failure	Congenital heart disease, hypertension with cardiac complications, chronic heart failure, individuals requiring regular medication and/or follow-up for ischaemic heart disease. This includes individuals with atrial fibrillation, peripheral vascular disease or a history of venous thromboembolism.
Chronic kidney disease at stage three, four or five	Chronic kidney disease at stage 3, 4 or 5, chronic kidney failure, nephrotic syndrome, kidney transplantation.
Chronic liver disease	Cirrhosis, biliary atresia, chronic hepatitis.
Chronic neurological disease, such as Parkinson's disease or motor neurone disease or learning disability	Stroke, transient ischaemic attack (TIA). Conditions in which respiratory function may be compromised due to neurological or neuromuscular disease (e.g. polio syndrome sufferers). Clinicians should offer immunisation, based on individual assessment, to clinically vulnerable individuals including those with cerebral palsy, severe or profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD), Down's syndrome, multiple sclerosis, dementia, Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease and related or similar conditions; or hereditary and degenerative disease of the nervous system or muscles; or severe neurological disability.
Diabetes	Type 1 diabetes, type 2 diabetes requiring insulin or oral hypoglycaemic drugs, diet-controlled diabetes.

	Addison's disease, secondary or tertiary adrenal insufficiency requirement steroid replacement.
Immunosuppression, a weakened immune system due to disease (such as HIV/AIDS) or treatment (such as cancer treatment)	<p>Immunosuppression due to disease or treatment, including patients undergoing chemotherapy leading to immunosuppression, patients undergoing radical radiotherapy, solid organ transplant recipients, bone marrow or stem cell transplant recipients, people living with HIV infection (at all stages), multiple myeloma or genetic disorders affecting the immune system (eg IRAK-4, NEMO, complement disorder, SCID).</p> <p>Individuals who are receiving immunosuppressive or immunomodulating biological therapy including but not limited to, anti-TNF-alemtuzumab ofatumumab, rituximab, patients receiving protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors, individuals treated with steroid sparing agents such as cyclophosphamide and mycophenolate mofetil.</p> <p>Individuals treated with or likely to be treated with systemic steroids for more than a month at a dose equivalent to prednisolone at 20mg or more per day.</p> <p>Anyone with a history of haematological malignancy, including leukaemia, lymphoma, and myeloma and those with systemic lupus erythematosus and rheumatoid arthritis, and psoriasis who may require long term immunosuppressive treatments.</p> <p>It is difficult to define at what level of immunosuppression a patient could be considered to be at a greater risk of the serious consequences of influenza and should be offered seasonal influenza vaccination. This decision is best made on an individual basis and left to the patient's clinician.</p> <p>Some immune-compromised patients may have a suboptimal immunological response to the vaccine.</p>
Splenic dysfunction or asplenia	This also includes conditions such as homozygous sickle cell disease, hereditary spherocytosis, thalassemia major and coeliac syndrome that may lead to splenic dysfunction.
Morbid obesity	Adults with a Body Mass Index $\geq 40\text{kg/m}^2$. ¹⁴
Pregnant women (including those women who become pregnant during the flu season)	Pregnant women aged 18 or over at any stage of pregnancy (first, second or third trimesters).

¹⁴ Many of this patient group will already be eligible due to complications of obesity that place them in another risk category

People living in long-stay residential care homes or other long-stay care facilities	Vaccination is recommended for people aged 18 or over living in long-stay residential care homes or other long-stay care facilities where rapid spread is likely to follow introduction of infection and cause high morbidity and mortality. This does not include, for instance, prisons, young offender institutions, or university halls of residence. For the pharmacy service this only applies to those aged 18 or over.
Carers	People aged 18 or over who are in receipt of a carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an older or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill.
Close contacts of immunocompromised individuals	People who are close contacts, aged 18 and over, of immunocompromised individuals, specifically individuals who expect to share living accommodation on most days over the winter and, therefore, for whom continuing close contact is unavoidable.
Frontline workers in a social care setting without employer led occupational health schemes	Frontline workers, employed by a registered residential care/nursing home or registered domiciliary care provider, who are directly involved in the care of vulnerable patients/clients who are at increased risk from exposure to influenza. Vulnerable means those patients/clients in a clinical risk group for flu or who are aged 65 years and over.
Hospice workers without employer led occupational health schemes	Frontline workers, employed by a voluntary managed hospice provider, who are directly involved in the care of vulnerable patients/clients who are at increased risk from exposure to influenza.
Frontline workers without employer led occupational health schemes	Frontline workers employed through direct payments and/or personal health budgets to deliver domiciliary care to patients and service users.