

30th September 2014

Wigginton Road
York YO31 8HE

Telephone: (01904) 631313

Telephone enquiries please contact:
Tel/Fax: 01904 725370

Circulated to:

Peritoneal Dialysis Patients

Haemodialysis Patients

Transplant patients

Patients on Immunosuppression

Chronic Kidney Disease Patients (CKD 2-5)

Seasonal Flu Vaccination

People aged over 65, as well as those in "high risk groups" which include those with kidney failure, nephrotic syndrome, renal transplants and others on immunosuppression (e.g. prednisolone, azathioprine, cyclophosphamide, ciclosporin, mycophenolate, tacrolimus) are advised to have the seasonal influenza vaccination.

All of our dialysis patients and many attending our renal clinics will therefore be candidates for influenza vaccination and we encourage you to have the injection every year.

Your GP has probably contacted you already, or should be contacting you soon, to arrange for this injection to be administered.

Pneumococcal Vaccination

The Department of Health also recommend pneumococcal vaccinations for patients with kidney failure, nephrotic syndrome, renal transplants and others on immunosuppression.

Antibody levels are likely to fall quickly in patients with chronic kidney disease. **Repeat vaccination with the pneumococcal vaccine is recommended once every 5 years.** If you have been vaccinated recently you should not need a second injection. If you have not had the injection before we recommend that you contact your GP to arrange for this to be done when you have your influenza vaccination.

Shingles Vaccination (Zostavax)

If you are aged 70 or 79 when the GP invites you for you flu injection you will also be asked to have a shingles vaccine. This is a new vaccine which is slowly being introduced this year.

The vaccine is what we call a 'live' vaccine. This means that if you are taking steroid tablets (prednisolone) or medicines to reduce your immune system (for example cyclophosphamide) or you had a transplant you must not have the shingles vaccination. For all other patients with kidney failure the vaccine is safe.

If you have any questions you are welcome to discuss this with any of the nursing staff or specialist nurses, renal pharmacist or with one of the doctors in clinic.

Yours sincerely

Dr D Border, Dr D Eadington, Dr R Hoefield, Dr C H Jones, Dr P Laboi, Dr K McCullough, Dr D Richardson
and Dr N Than

Consultant Physicians & Nephrologists (covering York, Scarborough and Harrogate)