

The new GMS contract explained

Focus on...

Payments for influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations 2004/05

GPC

General Practitioners
Committee

This guidance note has been produced by the General Practitioners Committee to inform you of the nationally agreed prices for influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations in 2004/05. It should be read in conjunction with "Focus on... vaccinations and immunisations."

This is one of a series of guidance notes on the new contract. We would advise all GPs to read the contract documentation, available on the BMA website at www.bma.org.uk. The GPC has produced a list of frequently asked questions and answers which can also be found at the website address.

The Directed Enhanced Service specification published by the GPC and NHS Confederation for influenza immunisation states that "payment will continue at the current existing rates in each country, uplifted by 3.225% per annum." This DES now includes pneumococcal immunisation. Where the DES is provided by GMS and PMS contractors in 2004/05, the following rates should be used for both immunisations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland:

England and Wales	£7.28
Northern Ireland	£9.08 (includes data fee)

In Scotland, the payment is different for each immunisation:

Pneumococcal	£7.28
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Influenza

if more than 50% of the age group have been immunised	£8.43
if up to and including 10% of the age group have been immunised	£6.83
if between 10% and 50% of the age group have been immunised	
a sliding scale is used	£6.83 to £8.43

GPs are also advised to read the DES directions, available on the Department of Health's website: http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/OrganisationPolicy/PrimaryCare/Commissioning/CommissioningArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4078628&chk=FpPn9D which set out the minimum legal requirements for this DES, including PCT freedoms to commission from other providers and develop payment methodologies as appropriate.