



Reidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

National Immunisation Office  
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27<sup>th</sup> April 2010

Re: Extension of Recommendations for Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Vaccine

Dear Doctor

The National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) has advised that the following groups should continue to be offered Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Vaccine throughout Spring/Summer 2010

- Those aged 6 months to 64 years in one of the medically at risk groups below who are newly diagnosed or have not already received the vaccine**
  - Chronic respiratory disease (including asthma and cystic fibrosis)
  - Chronic heart, renal, liver or neurological disease
  - Congenital or acquired immunodeficiency and their household contacts
  - Diabetes mellitus
  - Haemoglobinopathies
  - Morbid obesity (BMI  $\geq 40$ )
- All pregnant women over 14 weeks gestation, up to 6 weeks post partum and those in the first trimester in the medically at risk groups.** This is as previous correspondence because of their risk of serious complications from pandemic flu as well as adverse perinatal outcomes and delivery complications. In addition maternal vaccination may protect the newborn through placental transfer.
- Those travelling to the Southern hemisphere.** It is unknown if and when the H1N1 virus may circulate again in the Southern hemisphere and this recommendation is to reduce the risk of people contracting the disease whilst abroad and bringing it home.

Participating doctors will be reimbursed for vaccine administration to their patients in Groups 1 and 2 only and claims should be returned in the usual way. As the vaccine is provided free of charge there should be no charge for the cost of the vaccine to those patients in Group 3 and the administration cost is between the GP and their patient.

Pandemic vaccine (Pandemrix) is available from the HSE National Cold Chain Service. This vaccine may continue to be recommended for certain groups for the next influenza season. We will let you know as soon as there is more information about this.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Kevin Kelleher  
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