

## Pharmacies and Flu Vaccination: *what's all the fuss about?*



You may have heard that this year community pharmacists can give free flu vaccinations to patients who are aged 18 or over and are eligible for an NHS vaccination.

This service runs alongside the usual GP vaccination programmes so this means people can choose where they want to receive their NHS vaccination and when.

Pharmacists are fully trained to give vaccinations and they will be giving patients exactly the same vaccinations as GP practices, in private consultation rooms.

### Did you know...?

The NHS aims to vaccinate 75% of at risk patients against flu every year. Last year **just 44.1%** of people in some groups had the vaccine.

Pharmacy teams vaccinated **232,388 patients** (at NHS expense) against flu in 2014/15.

Last year pharmacies offered flu vaccinations in 21 out of 25 local NHS areas.

**89.2%** of the population live within a **20 minute walk** of a pharmacy.

**97.7%** of people vaccinated in pharmacies across 32 areas of England in 2014/15 would **recommend the service to a friend.**

## Pharmacy and flu vaccinations: true or false?

### *Pharmacists can't give vaccinations in private*



**FALSE**

Nearly all community pharmacies have a private consultation room now and this is a must for them to offer vaccinations. The rooms are used to give patients a range of advice on medicines and other conditions – ask your local pharmacy how else they can help you.

### *Pharmacists are trained to give vaccinations*



**TRUE**

Pharmacists are experts in medicines but like doctors and nurses, they have to undertake special training before they can give vaccinations. This training is to the same standard as all other NHS healthcare professionals, and it is backed up by regular refresher training.

### *Pharmacies use the same vaccine as doctors*



**TRUE**

All healthcare professionals offering NHS flu vaccination must buy the vaccine from a list of NHS approved drugs manufacturers.

### *Pharmacies have not done this before*



**FALSE**

To help meet NHS vaccination targets, almost all of NHS England's local teams last year commissioned pharmacies to offer flu vaccinations to some groups of patients. Many pharmacies have also been offering private vaccination services for a number of years.

### *Doctors won't know when pharmacies give patients vaccinations*



**FALSE**

As part of the service, pharmacies are required to let patients' GPs know once they have given them the vaccine. This has been the case for local services in the past as well.