

Screening template

This template is to help you to screen your policy.

Please delete the guidance notes (GN) in the tint boxes when you have finished filling it in.

Title of policy:

Letter from Prof David Salisbury to the NHS regarding uptake of the seasonal flu vaccination in the 2010/11 flu season.

Short description of policy:

Uptake of the seasonal flu vaccination in the 2010/11 flu season. The Director of Immunisation, Professor David Salisbury, is writing to the NHS to highlight the importance of achieving high seasonal flu vaccination coverage in:

- people aged 65 years and over;
- people aged under 65 in the clinical risk groups¹; and
- frontline healthcare professionals.

Improving seasonal flu vaccine uptake will ensure that more vulnerable people are protected.

Negative impact

How could the policy have a **significant** negative impact on equality in relation to each area?

Age

NONE

Disability

NONE

Ethnicity

NONE

Gender (including transgendered people)

NONE

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Religion or belief NONE
Sexual orientation NONE
Socio-economic groups NONE

Positive impact
<p>Could the policy have a significant positive impact on equality by reducing inequalities that already exist?</p> <p>Explain how will it meet our duty to:</p>
<p>1. Promote equal opportunities NO</p>
<p>2. Get rid of discrimination NO</p>
<p>3. Get rid of harassment NO</p>
<p>4. Promote good community relations NO</p>
<p>5. Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people NO</p>
<p>6. Encourage participation by disabled people NO</p>
<p>7. Consider more favourable treatment of disabled people NO</p>
<p>8. Promote and protect human rights NO</p>

Evidence

What is the evidence for your answers to the above questions?

Targeting of seasonal influenza vaccine is objectively justifiable and based on evidence of clinical risk of complications to influenza

What does available research say?

There is evidence that older people (over 65s) and those in certain medical groups, including pregnant women are at increased risk of complications from influenza compared with the general population. The basis of this policy is further described in the influenza chapter of *Immunisation against infectious disease*:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_119559.pdf

What further research or data do you need to fill any gaps in your understanding of the potential or known effects of the policy?

Have you thought about commissioning new data or research?

Screening assessment

Now that you have looked at the evidence, do you think that the policy needs a **Full EqIA**? **No**

Next steps

If you do **not** need to do a **Full EqIA**:

What else might you need to do to make sure the policy **promotes equality** and **gets rid of discrimination**?

The letter needs to provide a steer to local organisations to ensure targeting of patients is communicated in a clear and accessible way.

How will you **monitor** the situation as the policy develops and takes effect?

The JCVI and its influenza sub-committee regularly review emerging data on influenza and influenza vaccines and reports on the uptake of influenza vaccines.

What **further research** do you need?