



## College of Operating Department Practitioners

### **CODP Guidance for Operating Department Practitioners (ODPs) involved in Coronavirus and Influenza Vaccination and Immunisation Programmes**

Changes to the Human Medicines Regulations in respect of vaccination and immunisation programmes has led to some confusion among ODPs, compounded by the recent consultation on permitting ODPs to administer medicines via the mechanism of Patient Group Directions (PGDs)

The College welcomes and indeed lobbied for these changes to further unleash the potential of ODPs. It is though important that ODPs understand and are clear about which of the mechanisms under the Human Medicines Regulations they are using to administer Coronavirus and or Influenza vaccine and have this confirmed by their employer.

At the current time ODPs are not included in the list of professions able to administer medicines via the mechanism of PGDs, although this has been the subject of a recent consultation and the Regulations are likely to change in the future.

The following sets out the specific mechanisms under which ODPs may be engaged in vaccination programmes and if you are involved you must confirm under which of these mechanisms your skills are being deployed, this cannot be a PGD at this time.

- **Patient Specific Directions** - ODPs have always been able to administer medicines, including vaccines under a patient specific direction. However, this mechanism is not used for mass vaccination programs due to the obvious limitations inherent in working to individual named patient prescriptions for a mass vaccination programme.

The Human Medicines (Coronavirus and Influenza) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 introduced two further mechanisms and these empower ODPs.

- **Regulation 8, Occupational Health Vaccinator** – this amendment now authorises ODPs to administer under Occupational Health Schemes. This is the mechanism most commonly used for the seasonal flu peer to peer vaccination program and is a mechanism by which ODPs may also administer Coronavirus vaccine. There are specific requirements for deploying vaccination via this mechanism, such as a written instruction and named professionals as vaccinators.
- **New Regulation 247A Protocols Relating to Coronavirus and Influenza Vaccinations and Immunisations** – this new Regulation refers to classes of personnel authorised to vaccinate under National Protocols approved by ministers. This is the mechanism under which ODPs will be able administer Covid 19 vaccine to



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the wider public. The Regulation is time bounded and has thus been enacted in response to the current pandemic and will be reviewed after a year.

### ***Links to additional Resources***

[The Human Medicines \(Coronavirus and Influenza\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020](#)

[Written Instruction for the administration of seasonal 'flu vaccination \(2020/21 version\)](#)

[COVID-19 vaccination programme Information for healthcare practitioners](#)

[HCPC Vaccinations: What you need to know](#)