



North East and Cumbria Learning Disability
Network
Strategic Clinical Networks and Senate
Waterfront 4
Goldcrest Way
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE15 8NY

17th October, 2014

Dear Colleague

'Flu immunisation

As a social care provider of services to people with learning disabilities you will only be too aware of the impact that influenza and other respiratory illnesses can have on the people you are supporting with learning disabilities and other neurological disabilities throughout the winter months. It is for this reason that people with learning disabilities are recognised as being in a clinically 'at risk' group that we specifically wish to target for 'flu immunisation.

We know from a number of studies that 'flu immunisation is one of the most effective interventions for preventing premature deaths from respiratory illnesses.

Please could we ask for your assistance in promoting 'flu immunisations for all of your service users? Enclosed is a straightforward leaflet providing further information about the risks of flu and benefits of being immunised.

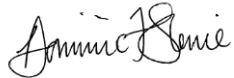
GPs are aware that they will be receiving requests to do the immunisations and will endeavour to do this at times convenient to you and those you are supporting.

Occasionally there are reasons why some people with learning disabilities should not have a 'flu immunisation and this will be discussed with the person with learning disabilities and their carer if appropriate.

High quality care for all, now and for future generations

Of course support staff can also become infected with influenza and pass it on to 'at risk' or vulnerable individuals. For this reason we would also ask you to promote 'flu immunisation for all members of staff who come into contact with people with learning disabilities.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dominic Slowie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'S'.

Dr Dominic Slowie
North East and Cumbria Learning Disability Network Chair/ National Clinical
Director for Learning Disability
NHS England