

SL(5)722 – The Primary Care (Oxford/AstraZeneca Vaccine COVID-19 Immunisation Scheme) Directions 2020

Background and Purpose

Local Health Boards in Wales must establish, operate and, as appropriate, revise an Oxford/AstraZeneca Vaccine Primary Care COVID-19 Immunisation Scheme.

The underlying purpose of the Scheme is to enable the provision of services to administer the vaccine as part of the health service in Wales.

As part of its Scheme, each Local Health Board may enter into arrangements for the provision of services in accordance with the Oxford/AstraZeneca Vaccine Primary Care COVID-19 Immunisation Scheme Specification with—

(a) a dentist;

(b) a general medical practitioner—

(i) in relation to the registered patients of that general medical practitioner,

(ii) one or more cluster lead practices, in relation to the registered patients of the cluster lead practice and the registered patients of those general medical practitioners, if any, in its cluster that have not agreed within such time period as the Local Health Board requires, to deliver the Scheme to their registered patients pursuant to sub-paragraph (i),

(iii) a general medical practitioner that has agreed to deliver the Scheme pursuant to sub-paragraph (i) in relation to the registered patients of another general medical practitioner or group of general medical practitioners, subject to the agreement of the other general medical practitioner or group of general medical practitioners;

(c) an optician; or

(d) a pharmacist.

Procedure

No Senedd procedure – the Directions do not have to be laid before the Senedd.

Scrutiny under Standing Order 21.7

One point is identified for reporting under Standing Order 21.7 in respect of these Directions.



We note the broad powers that the Welsh Ministers have under the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006, including the power to give directions to Local Health Boards in Wales relating to the health service.

In particular, we note that the power to give directions is broad enough to allow the Welsh Ministers to direct Local Health Boards to establish a nationwide vaccination scheme to deal with the coronavirus pandemic, without the need for primary legislation or subordinate legislation that must be laid before the Senedd.

Government response

A Welsh Government response is not required.

Committee Consideration

The Committee considered the Directions at its meeting on 25 January 2021 and reports to the Senedd in line with the reporting point above.

