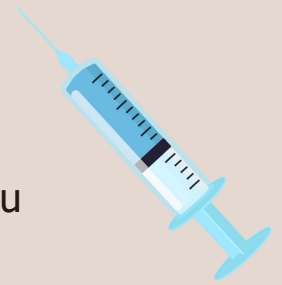


HTA of use of an enhanced flu vaccine for people aged 65+ in the HSE Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Programme

What did we do?

- Published our health technology assessment (HTA) on this topic.
- Provided advice to the Minister for Health and HSE on the implications of a possible switch from a standard to an enhanced flu vaccine for people aged 65+.



What did we find?



People aged 65+ are particularly affected by flu, despite a well-established vaccination programme that offers them a free standard flu vaccine.



Two types of enhanced flu vaccines may be more effective than standard vaccines in preventing flu or flu-related hospitalisations in people aged 65+.



Some enhanced vaccines have a higher risk of certain side effects (for example, headache, pain at the injection site, fever) compared with standard flu vaccines, but these are usually mild and short-lived.



Flu vaccines are generally safe and well tolerated, and serious side effects are rare with standard and enhanced flu vaccines.



The choice of enhanced flu vaccine and whether it represents an efficient use of HSE resources would depend on the price the HSE has to pay for enhanced flu vaccines compared with standard flu vaccines.

Why did we do this?

The Department of Health asked us to carry out this assessment to inform a decision on funding a switch from a standard to an enhanced flu vaccine for people aged 65+ in the HSE Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Programme.



Find out more ...

See our final report, plain language summary and statement of outcomes (public consultation feedback on our draft report) at www.hiqa.ie.

