

Mental Capacity to Refuse or consent to the Seasonal Flu Vaccine



Before you come for your Flu Injection please look at the easy read leaflet on www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/LDMYHEALTH to make sure you understand about the Flu Vaccine



If you do not understand the information ask a friend, family member or carer to help you understand.



To be able to Consent means that you can

Communicate - tell someone else what it is you have decided



• **Understand** - show that you understand what is the good and bad things about your decision



• **Retain** - when you are asked again later or the next day you still understand



• **Balance** - show you have thought about the choice they have made.



This shows that you have the ability to make a choice about THIS decision about whether you want or don't want to have the flu vaccine.



If you don't have the ability to make this decision on your own THEN other people will make the decision for you by deciding if it is in your best interest.

This Document can be printed at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/LDMYHEALTH in the annual health check and flu section

Care / Support Workers

Respiratory related conditions are the leading cause of death in people with a learning disability [LeDeR 2019] which is why they are eligible for a free flu vaccine.

It is important that, as carers, you enable the people you support to receive this vaccine as part of their health and wellbeing.

If they refuse the vaccine then you need to ensure that you have checked that they had capacity to understand the impact of this decision in line with the information on the easyread page.

If you do not think they were able to understand what the flu injection is given for then please consider and record the following

- Is the person susceptible to chest infections / ill health?
- Are they frail / elderly / vulnerable / have swallow reflex issues?
- Do they attend environments with lots of people where they are likely to be exposed to the flu virus?
- Will they put themselves or others at risk during the process of receiving an injection [eg moving arm/ grabbing needle etc]
- Have additional measures been successfully used in the past to enable the person to receive a vaccine?
- What reasonable adjustments would need to be considered in order for them to be able to have the injection without causing them undue stress?
- If they will not tolerate the injection and would put themselves at risk of injury then would they accept the vaccination by nasal spray? [this is not licenced for adults so is not proven to be as effective as the injection, but where the alternative is no vaccine, then the Gp can prescribe the nasal spray]
- Remember - this is a medical decision as the NHS have evidenced the value of the flu vaccine for vulnerable patient groups. So if you do not support someone to receive the vaccine you need to ensure this decision has been made in their best interest and that you have evidenced this. Do not allow your personal opinion on the validity of the flu vaccine to form part of the decision process.

Rationale for why someone did not receive the flu vaccine

Date

Name of Person

Did they have capacity to fully understand the risks and benefits of the flu vaccine using the easyread information?

IF YES [if yes please detail how this was assessed and how the person communicated the decision they had made to refuse the vaccine and their understanding of the risks of this decision

IF NO What were the risks to the person for having the flu jab that you identified that you felt outweighed the benefits?

If NO Were there any reasonable adjustments that could have been put in place to reduce the risks [Including use of nasal spray] and why was it decided that it was not in their best interest to make these adjustments?

Name and Designation of people making this decision