

Vaccination Consent

Important Information for Patients

Why you may notice a change

National guidance has clarified how consent for vaccinations should be obtained and recorded across primary care services. This ensures that patients receive clear information and that consent is obtained safely, consistently, and in line with professional standards.

These changes do **not** affect:

- Your right to choose whether or not to have a vaccine
- The safety of vaccines
- Who is eligible for vaccination

They do affect how consent is managed and who is responsible for different parts of the vaccination process.

How consent for vaccination works

Before receiving any vaccination, you must be provided with information about:

- What the vaccine is for
- The benefits of vaccination
- Possible risks and side effects
- The opportunity to ask questions
- Your right to decline or delay vaccination

This is known as **informed consent**.

Information may be provided:

- Through a patient information leaflet
 - Via a link sent by text message or email
 - On our website
 - During a discussion with a GP, Practice Nurse, or Pharmacist
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Who is responsible for obtaining consent?

Under current national guidance:

- A registered healthcare professional, such as a GP, Practice Nurse, or Pharmacist, is responsible for obtaining and recording informed consent.
- Healthcare Assistants (HCAs) are trained and competent to administer vaccinations but are not responsible for obtaining informed consent.

This means that:

- Informed consent must have been obtained or confirmed by a registered clinician.
 - HCAs do not make clinical decisions regarding consent.
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What will happen on the day of your vaccination?

When you attend your vaccination appointment, the Healthcare Assistant will:

- Check that consent has already been obtained or appropriately documented
- Confirm that you still wish to receive the vaccine
- Ask relevant safety questions regarding allergies, recent illness, pregnancy (where appropriate), or any changes in your health
- Check for any contraindications before administering the vaccine
- Seek advice from a registered clinician if any concerns arise

If you have questions that require a clinical discussion or decision, the Healthcare Assistant will pause the appointment and arrange for a GP, Nurse, or Pharmacist to speak with you before vaccination proceeds.

You may change your mind about having the vaccine at any stage, including during your appointment.

If you have received the vaccine before

Having received a vaccine previously can help us understand your vaccination history, but consent is reviewed on every occasion.

This is because:

- Recommendations and information can change over time
 - New medical conditions may affect suitability
 - You should always have the opportunity to ask questions
 - You retain the right to decline vaccination at any time
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Questions or concerns?

Please contact Seaside Medical Centre before your appointment if you:

- Would like to speak with a clinician about a vaccine
- Have a medical condition or allergy and are unsure whether vaccination is suitable
- Require additional information before making your decision
- Need assistance understanding the information provided

Our team will be happy to help.

In Summary

- ✓ You will receive information before vaccination.
 - ✓ A registered clinician is responsible for informed consent.
 - ✓ Healthcare Assistants will confirm consent and undertake safety checks before administering vaccines.
 - ✓ A clinician will be involved whenever additional advice or clinical decisions are needed.
 - ✓ Your understanding, choice, and safety remain our priority.
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Patient Information Links

Seasonal Flu Vaccination <https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/flu-vaccine/>