

October 2021

Dear Doctor,

The expanded flu vaccination programme is intended to protect vulnerable people and support the NHS. The JCVI has advised that the vaccine can be given alongside the Covid-19 booster vaccine. This is particularly important as we face the challenges of another winter.

Guidance around those eligible for the free flu vaccine includes those with a chronic neurological condition, although it does not specify epilepsy. The list is not definitive and physicians are asked to use their clinical judgment in deciding whether someone with the condition would benefit from the vaccination.

Most specifically it states:

*“Talk to your doctor if you have a long-term condition that is not in one of these groups. They should offer you the flu vaccine if they think you're at risk of serious problems if you get flu.”*

At Epilepsy Society, our research shows that many people with uncontrolled seizures, experience increased seizure activity as a result of a fever.

For people whose seizures do not respond to current treatments, it is sensible to safeguard against potential triggers where possible. This is particularly so in the case of the flu.

I always recommend that people in my care have the flu vaccine and I believe that everyone with epilepsy should be entitled to receive it for free in the interests of their health and safety. Seizures are not benign events and can result in physical injuries as well as impacting on education, employment and driving.

Yours sincerely,



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