

Carer Preparation for health professional to be able to assess Mental Capacity to Consent to the Seasonal Flu Injection



Before you come for your Flu Injection please look at the easy read leaflet we have attached to make sure you understand why you are choosing to have the injection.



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



Understanding 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 to have the flu injection.



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.

Care / Support Workers

Please write on the record sheet attached what steps you took to explain the flu injection to the person who has been invited for it. What different ways did you try to explain it?

Record what they said or did which made you think that they did or didn't understand what the flu injection is and why they have been invited to have it. [people have the right to make unwise decisions as long as they can demonstrate that they understand the risks of that decision]

If you do not think they were able to understand what the flu injection is given for then **BEFORE** the flu injection appointment please can key people in their life consider whether you think it is in their best interest to have it?

Please record who you discussed this with [family members, carers, other professionals involved in the persons care]

Please consider and record the following

- Is the person susceptible to chest infections / ill health?
- Are they frail / elderly / vulnerable or do they live with people who are?
- Do they attend environments with lots of people where they are likely to be exposed to the flu virus?
- Will additional measures need to be taken in order for them to be compliant with having the injection?
- What reasonable adjustments would need to be considered in order for them to be able to have the injection without causing them undue stress?
- Do you, as key people who know the person, think that the benefits of the flu injection outweigh the risks / additional measures that would need to be taken to get them to have it ?

Flu Vaccine - Carers preparation work to help the health professional to make capacity assessment and best interest decision re Flu Injection. [Please complete and take this with you]

Name

Date

Have you discussed the Flu vaccine with the person and have they shown you that they understand what the flu injection is and why they should have it? **YES** **NO** [Please record what they said / did to show this - using CURB]

Does the person have someone who holds Lasting Power of Attorney for Welfare Matters? If so who is this. Please bring evidence and written agreement from them for the flu vaccine to be administered.

If you think that they might not understand the benefits and risks of having the flu injection then this means that the medical practitioner **might** consider that they don't have capacity to make this decision. This is the medical practitioners decision. They will then need to make a best interest decision.

BEFORE the appointment please do some preparation work for the medical practitioner to make a best interest decision. This final decision will be with the Doctor or nurse who gives the injection.

Which key people in the person's life has the flu jab been discussed with?

What did you think were the risks / benefits to the person for not having the Flu Jab?

What did you think were the risks / benefits to the person for having the flu jab?

As key people in this persons life, did you agree whether you thought it is in their best interest to have the flu vaccine?

YES **NO** and why?

Please take this information to the appointment for the flu jab and give it to the Doctor / Nurse when you arrive. The person administering the vaccine will need to make a decision but this information will help them decide whether the person has the Capacity to Consent to the Vaccine and if not then whether it is the persons best interest to have it.

Please make sure you contact the surgery in advance to discuss any reasonable adjustments the person may need in order for the flu jab to be successfully administered without causing undue distress.