

Subject: Flu and COVID-19 Vaccination Programmes – Planning Your Clinical Waste Requirements

Dear Colleagues,

As pharmacies prepare for Flu and COVID-19 vaccination programmes, please ensure that any additional clinical waste requirements are planned and requested well in advance of your vaccination clinics.

Vaccination programmes can result in a significant increase in the number of sharps containers required and the volume of waste requiring collection. With many pharmacies and practices operating clinics over the same period, there will also be increased demand across the clinical waste service.

PLANNING AHEAD

Pharmacies should estimate the number of sharps containers required for planned clinics and submit requests sufficiently early to allow delivery ahead of clinic start dates.

The contracted service is not a next-day delivery or collection service. Requests made immediately before a planned clinic cannot therefore be assumed to be completed before the clinic takes place.

Where additional or larger collections are likely to be required as a result of vaccination activity, these should also be requested as early as possible and within the applicable contractual timescales.

REQUESTS WILL BE MANAGED IN THE ORDER RECEIVED

During peak vaccination periods, significant numbers of additional delivery and collection requests may be received at the same time.

To manage this fairly and consistently, requests will be progressed on a first come, first served basis. Individual locations will not be prioritised ahead of others because a vaccination clinic is imminent, so early planning is essential.

Please raise additional container, collection or service requirements through your Vector account. The Anenta team will then manage the request with the contracted clinical waste service provider and monitor its progress. Deliveries are likely to only take place on the next routine visit depending on when the order is received.

Thank you for planning your requirements in advance and helping us to manage the increased demand associated with the vaccination programme.

Kind regards,

Pharmacy Team

South East Commissioning Hub