

## COVID 19 Vaccination Programme: Important Information on “buddying up” system

We hope members found the information on the State Indemnity provided at the ICGP COVID 19 webinar yesterday evening (17 February 2021) useful. Our previous update on the Vaccination Programme dated 12 February 2021 can be found [here](#).

### “Buddying up” system

As members are aware, the Operational Guidance document provided by the HSE envisages a “buddying” system to be put in place whereby GP practices that have less than 200 patients in the “over 70” age category pair up with a larger practice in the area. The guidance had stated that each patient will be vaccinated by their own GP team in that setting.

The HSE has this morning confirmed that there is no issue with GPs / practice nurses vaccinating patients who are not patients of their own practice and that this is covered by the State indemnity, details of which have already been provided to the IMO by the HSE following the Department of Health approval. We understand, for the avoidance of any doubt, the HSE Operational Guidance document will be updated accordingly.

Subject to this clarification, our underwriters have in turn confirmed that Medisec GPs and their practice nurses working under their policy will, in accordance with standard policy terms and conditions, be covered to vaccinate patients of other practices: whether that be at their own practice, another practice or at a vaccination centre.

As always, it is extremely important that GPs and practice nurses complete the relevant training and adhere to all up-to-date HSE guidelines in relation to the COVID 19 vaccination programme.

It is important to keep in mind that practices hosting a “buddy” practice for the purpose of administering COVID 19 vaccines should ensure they notify their public liability insurers accordingly.

Practice nurses who are indemnified under a practice malpractice policy are advised to check the individual proposed arrangements with their policy providers to ensure they have adequate cover in place to vaccinate patients of other practices under a “buddy” arrangement.

We appreciate that this is a challenging time for GPs and their staff and please feel free to contact us with any queries you have.

**“The contents of this publication are indicative of current developments and is accurate at the date of publication”**

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