

REASON WHY?

Coeliac disease is associated with functional hyposplenism, increasing the risk of invasive pneumococcal disease. National guidance advises that coeliac patients should receive a pneumococcal vaccination as part of routine preventative care.



To identify all patients in the practice with a diagnosis of coeliac disease who did not have a recorded pneumococcal vaccination, and to improve vaccination uptake over a one-month period.

PLAN

- An EMIS search was built using active coeliac disease diagnosis codes (problem list and significant past medical history).
- A lifetime pneumococcal vaccination code set was applied as an exclusion to avoid duplicate invitations.
- The resulting patient list was manually spot-checked to confirm appropriate inclusion and coding accuracy.
- Final output identified 41 patients with coeliac disease and no recorded pneumococcal vaccination.
- Vaccine stock levels were reviewed weekly and shared with the administrative lead so that appointment release could be aligned with available stock and clinical capacity.
- Activity was reviewed at regular intervals throughout the month to track responses and plan next steps.

DO

- A structured recall process was implemented, designed to be reproducible for other LTC vaccination work:
- Patients were invited via AccuRx using a tailored SMS message explaining eligibility and offering a direct self-booking link.
 - Invitations were sent in small batches to ensure that demand matched vaccine stock and appointment availability.
 - Additional vaccination appointments were added incrementally as further stock became available.
 - Incoming responses (bookings, queries, declines) were monitored, and patient records were updated accordingly.
 - Non-responders were coded for further recall or opportunistic vaccination at future contacts with the practice.

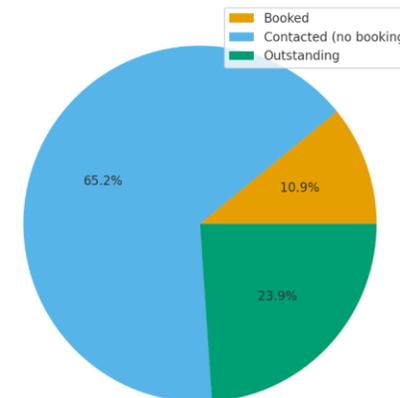
STUDY

Out of the 41 patients identified as eligible and unvaccinated at baseline:

- 35 patients were successfully contacted during the initial one-month recall period.
- 5 patients booked directly into a pneumococcal vaccination clinic using the AccuRx self-booking link.
- A proportion of contacted patients responded to acknowledge the message, request further information, or indicate that they intended to receive the vaccination at an upcoming routine appointment.
- 11 patients remain outstanding and have been flagged for second-round recall or opportunistic vaccination at future attendances.

Whilst all eligible patients were identified and 85% were invited to book a vaccination during the planned period, not all of those booked an appointment. Future practice communications could be tailored to provide more information to patients. Additionally, a challenge of the project was that it was implemented during the peak of flu vaccinations which could be a limiting factor in uptake.

Coeliac Pneumococcal Recall Outcomes



ACT

Next Steps

- Undertake a second-round recall for the 11 outstanding patients, using a mix of digital and telephone contact.
- Continue to offer pneumococcal vaccination opportunistically during routine GP, nurse and LTC reviews.
- Embed the search and recall process into an annual review cycle for coeliac patients.
- Re-audit in six months to assess the cumulative improvement in uptake and refine the model further if required.
- This model could be replicated to improve the uptake of other vaccinations in future.