

Care Homes

NHS England and NHS Improvement



Consent Process

- Given the timescales to commence a booster vaccination programme for care home residents, care home staff should start the consenting process of residents and care home staff immediately in advance of any booster vaccination.
- Consent needs to be obtained before starting any medical treatment, test or physical investigation / examination or before providing personal care for a patient; this is standard NHS practice and is a legal requirement.
- [The Green Book](#) Chapter 2 provides guidance on the consent process for vaccinations and in this regard delivery of COVID-19.
- Where an individual lacks the mental capacity and a best interests decision has been made, the decision maker should make a record of their best interests decision. If a capacity assessment is done and the decision is that the individual did have capacity to consent this should also be documented.
- 'Easy read' information developed by UK Health Security Agency are [here](#).
- Relevant consent forms, other supporting forms and associated information can be found on the [GOV.UK](#) website. These forms should be adapted locally to apply to the specific doses (first, second, third, primary dose or any subsequent booster doses) being given. Consent remains valid unless the individual who gave it withdraws it. If there is new information between the time consent was given and when the immunisation is offered, it may be necessary to inform the patient and for them to re-confirm their consent.

Preparedness and Readiness Countdown Checklist (1/2)

Area	What to do	Complete Yes / No
Care Home	Engage Care Home Staff to • Identify an appropriate area to deliver the vaccine including appropriate location for the cool box; a sterile area for vaccine preparation (dilution / reconstitution of vials); an area for administering vaccines while maintaining patient confidentiality and privacy; and an area and system for post-observation of patients • Identify staff required for the day; ensure there are sufficient staff to assist with observation; and brief staff • Check all staff and volunteers involved in the delivery of vaccinations have undergone appropriate training, the extent and delivery of which will vary depending on the staff member's role and experience. • Yes / No to go ahead from Care Home Manager to the suggested date • Check and sign off Care Home set up – space for dilution and mixing; room ready and prepared; observation area and COVID secure • Check sufficient PPE available	
Clinical	• Where applicable Care Home manager to gather NHS numbers of residents and staff who are going to be vaccinated • Review records of residents, checking for allergies, whether medically fit and other exclusions in conjunction with relevant clinician • For those residents without capacity to give consent, to contact relatives to confirm consenting decisions and re-check with relatives re any contraindications prior to receiving vaccine • In the case of a positive outbreak, a risk assessment should be undertaken in conjunction with the Care Home Manager, GP and (where relevant) Director of Public Health in accordance with the guidance • Check which residents and eligible staff are clear to be vaccinated and update reserve list as needed • Check with the Care Home Manager that there has been no recent illness of residents or staff that would preclude vaccination and ensure that consent is in place for all eligible individuals	

Preparedness and Readiness Countdown Checklist (2/2)

Area	What to do	Complete Yes / No
Communications	• Inform GP Practice staff and Clinical lead to care home (if not the lead vaccinator) • Consider putting on a webinar or Teams meeting to inform staff, residents and families about the vaccination • Source relevant leaflets for patients and their relatives • Ensure there is clear communication with PCN team and with Care Home	
Consenting Process	• For the consenting process the Care Home should arrange the residents into three groups of: ❖ Capacity for decision ❖ Require attorney ❖ Best interest decision • Share information with relatives and residents	