

Criteria: Policies		
Indicators	Description	Status
Immunization ¹ for older adults is included in national aged care strategies.	Vaccination/immunization is not included in the National Strategy for an Ageing Australia. ^{1,2}	
<p>The National Immunization Programme/Plan (NIP) specifies older adults in vaccination schedules.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ COVID-19 (Age: 65+) ✓ Influenza (Age: 65+) ✗ DTap (Age: 18+) ✓ Pneumococcal pneumonia (Age: 18+) ✗ Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) (Age: N/A) ✓ Shingles (Age: 65) 	<p>As of April 2024, older adults 75+, people in care facilities, and people with underlying health conditions are eligible for a COVID-19 booster every 6 months.²</p> <p>Inactivated influenza vaccines are available annually for people 65+.^{3,4}</p> <p>1 dose of the pneumococcal vaccine (PPV23) is included in the NIP for adults 65 years old.^{3,4}</p> <p>A herpes zoster vaccine is available for people 65 years old, and an additional vaccine is available for people 70-79 or severely immunosuppressed people.³</p>	
National advisory committees on immunization (e.g., NITAGs) include expertise on ageing, geriatrics, internal medicine and/or adult vaccination, and a life course approach to immunization is included within decision-making processes and recommendations, with reference to key performance indicators and immunization rate targets specific to older adults.	It is difficult to find members of the United Kingdom's Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunization (JCVI) who might have a focus on ageing/geriatrics/gerontology. The Committee appears to be largely immunology and pediatric focused/informed.	

¹Vaccines examined in the GAAV include influenza, pneumococcal pneumonia, COVID-19, RSV, pertussis, and shingles.

Criteria: Funding		
Indicators	Description	Status
Vaccination is funded under the NIP and administered through the government program for at-risk populations, including older adults and people with chronic conditions.	<p>COVID-19 vaccinations are covered for people 75+, people who have a weakened immune system, and/or those who live in institutional care facilities.⁵⁻⁸</p> <p>Influenza, shingles, and pneumococcal vaccines are free for people 65+ have a chronic condition, and/or those who live in institutional care facilities.⁶⁻⁹</p> <p>While the RSV vaccine is not included in the July 2024 NIP, RSV vaccinations will be free for people 75-79 as of September 2024¹⁰.</p>	
National strategies prioritize the need for continuous monitoring of allocated budgets related to the funding and reimbursement of vaccines and public health efforts for older adults.	<p>In 2022, the UK healthcare expenditure was £283 billion. Adjusting for inflation, this is an expenditure decline of 4.5%. Out-of-pocket expenditure (paying for services without reimbursement) increased by 10.4%. Moreover, government investment in preventative care (including vaccination) decreased from 14.1% in 2021 to 8.2% of government healthcare spending in 2022.¹¹</p> <p>There were fewer vaccines administered in 2022, however, of those administered, many were dedicated through booster programs targeted at high-risk populations, such as older adults.^{11,12}</p>	

Criteria: Program		
Indicators	Description	Status
Easily accessible information (web pages, brochures, television/radio ads, social media) on adult immunization and health communication campaigns are targeted at older and at-risk adults to support a life course approach to immunization.	<p>International Longevity Centre UK, founders of Supporting Active Ageing Through Immunization (SAATI), promotes easily accessible immunization information for older adults. Campaigns include media campaigns on shingles, as well as broader adult immunization policy events and patient working groups.^{13,14}</p> <p>Further, the National Health Service (NHS) has educational campaigns targeted at dispelling vaccination myths and misinformation and promoting a life course approach to vaccination.¹³</p>	

Criteria: Program		
Indicators	Description	Status
<p>Vaccination administrators are expanded to include other healthcare workers and professionals, such as pharmacists, nurses and support workers through easily accessed sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Community health workers ✓ Medical and/or nursing students ✓ Midwives ✓ Nurses ✓ Paramedics ✓ Physicians ✓ Physician assistants ✓ Pharmacists ? Pharmacy technicians ✗ Support workers 	<p>Physicians, pharmacists, and nurses are eligible to administer vaccinations under the NIP.</p> <p>Nursing and medical students are allowed to administer influenza vaccines, after changes were made to the Human Medicines Regulations in 2022. It is unclear if administration privileges have been expanded to include COVID-19 vaccination, and if supervision is mandatory.¹⁵</p> <p>Following patient group directions (PGDs), which are written instructions for the supply and/or administration of medication, midwives, paramedics, and pharmacists may administer prescribed or general sale list vaccinations.^{16,17}</p> <p>Physician assistants, while unable to administer medication via PGDs, are allowed to administer vaccines after completing specific training in immunization.¹⁸</p> <p>Pharmacy technicians (assistants) are allowed to administer vaccinations, but only in centres that do not operate under a PGD.¹⁹</p>	
<p>Healthcare professionals are well-trained, informed, and upskilled on the benefits and administration of vaccines for older adults (e.g., specialized education on adult vaccination is included in medical curriculum, continuous education is available to healthcare professionals).</p>	<p>To operate under PGDs, healthcare professionals require PDG competency training. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) produces PGD templates to support national immunization programs. Many healthcare professionals who follow PGDs also complete vaccine competency training during their education.^{16,17,20}</p>	
<p>Clear administrative guidelines, including eligibility criteria and protocols, are defined for each vaccine.</p>	<p>PGDs provide clear written instructions for the supply and administration of medication and vaccines.¹⁶</p>	

Criteria: Performance		
Indicators	Description	Status
Goals and targets for reduction of VPD rates and adult immunization coverage are set out as part of the National Immunization Programme or Plan.	Specific vaccine-preventable disease reduction goals (in terms of rates of coverage) for adults are not outlined as a part of the NHS vaccination strategy. However, adult vaccination is considered when evaluating the delivery of vaccinations, with an emphasis on a life course approach to vaccination. ^{21,22}	
Coverage data for adult immunization is comprehensive, updated (2021 or earlier) and extends beyond coverage rates for influenza and COVID-19 through adult national immunization coverage data collection templates (e.g., aNICs).	Vaccination data is comprehensive and up to date as of August 2024. Data for COVID-19, influenza, shingles, DTap, and pneumococcal (PPV) vaccine uptake is available. ²³	
Collection and documentation of age-disaggregated data, including immunization and burden of disease rates, support evidence-informed decision-making and strategy development on vaccination.	Age-segregated data for vaccine coverage is available, as well as data on other socio-demographic populations (race, faith, qualifications, occupation, etc.). ^{24,25} Data on the burden of disease exists, but is primarily targeted at childhood VPDs, and is difficult to locate for the public. ²⁵	

Criteria: Equity		
Indicators	Description	Status
The NIP provides a specific focus on sub-groups of older adult populations at high risk of infectious diseases (e.g., cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and other non-communicable diseases).	Populations with chronic diseases and immunocompromised adolescents are included in the routine immunization schedule but are not considered for older adults, other than severely immunosuppressed people needing shingles vaccinations. ^{26,27}	
Vaccine administrative pathways acknowledge and accommodate equity-based barriers, driven by the social determinants of health, to older adult sub-group populations, such as refugees, Indigenous populations, and older adults residing in rural settings.	The UKHSA Health Equity for Health Security Strategy has identified the following priority populations: people in contact with the criminal justice system, vulnerable migrants, people experiencing homelessness, and place-based inequality, and continues to focus on ethnicity and deprivation-based inequality. Specifics as to how these populations will be prioritized or better served in this strategy are unclear.	

Criteria: Long-Term Care Settings		
Indicators	Description	Status
The NIP explicitly acknowledges older residents (65+) in long-term care settings as at-risk, or high-risk populations.	COVID-19, Influenza, shingles, and pneumococcal vaccines are free and recommended for people with chronic condition(s), and/or those who live in institutional care facilities. ⁵⁻⁹	
Adult immunization is included in national long-term care strategies (if present).	It is unclear if a national long-term care strategy exists. ^{28,29}	

Criteria: Civil Society Organizations		
Indicators	Description	Status
Civil society organizations (e.g. community groups, NGOs, labour unions, patient organizations, professional organizations) provide evidence on immunization to help inform policy creation that is reflective of the needs of older adults across the country.	Civil society organizations such as the British Geriatrics Society (BGS), the British Society for Immunology, and the International Longevity Centre UK provide educational and advocacy campaigns that help inform immunization policy and knowledge mobilization efforts in the UK. ³⁰⁻³⁴	
Civil society organizations provide educational resources to constituents on the importance of adult vaccination across the country.		
Civil society organizations advocate to raise political and governmental will to invest in preventative measures and strategies, including the prioritization of adult vaccination.		

Legend	
Criteria is fully met	
Criteria is partially met	
Criteria is not met	
Insufficient/ inaccessible/unclear evidence.	

References

1. Devolved public services | Institute for Government [Internet]. [cited 2024 Aug 5]. Available from: <https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/report/devolved-public-services>
2. A guide to the spring 2024 COVID-19 vaccination campaign - GOV.UK [Internet]. [cited 2024 Aug 5]. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-spring-booster-resources/a-guide-to-the-covid-19-spring-booster-2023>
3. Complete routine immunisation schedule from 1 July 2024 - GOV.UK [Internet]. [cited 2024 Aug 5]. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-complete-routine-immunisation-schedule/the-complete-routine-immunisation-schedule-from-february-2022>
4. Pneumococcal vaccine - NHS [Internet]. [cited 2024 Aug 5]. Available from: <https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/pneumococcal-vaccine/>
5. UK virtually ends free vaccines as COVID-19 continues to spread - World Socialist Web Site [Internet]. [cited 2024 Aug 6]. Available from: <https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2024/04/21/awnl-a21.html>
6. Shingles vaccine - NHS [Internet]. [cited 2024 Aug 6]. Available from: <https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/shingles-vaccine/>
7. Flu vaccine - NHS [Internet]. [cited 2024 Aug 6]. Available from: <https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/flu-vaccine/>
8. Over 65s and those with respiratory illness can guard against sepsis, pneumonia, and meningitis - The Braintree PCN [Internet]. [cited 2024 Aug 6]. Available from: <https://www.braintreepcn.nhs.uk/news/over-65s-and-those-with-respiratory-illness-can-guard-against-sepsis-pneumonia-and-meningitis/>
9. Health England P. Moved to the UK: Get up-to-date with your vaccinations. 2019 [cited 2024 Aug 6]; Available from: www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations
10. Your guide to the RSV vaccine for older adults - GOV.UK [Internet]. [cited 2024 Aug 6]. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/respiratory-syncytial-virus-rsv-vaccination-for-older-adults/your-guide-to-the-rsv-vaccine-for-older-adults>
11. Healthcare expenditure, UK Health Accounts provisional estimates - Office for National Statistics [Internet]. [cited 2024 Aug 6]. Available from: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthcaresystem/bulletins/healthcareexpenditureukhealthaccountsprovisionalestimates/2022>
12. Morris T, Tate J, Wait S, Scrutton of The Health Policy Partnership J. Implementing a Life-Course Approach to Immunization: Lessons learned from international best practice in policy and programming.
13. Why vaccination is important and the safest way to protect yourself - NHS [Internet]. [cited 2024 Aug 6]. Available from: <https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/why-vaccination-is-important-and-the-safest-way-to-protect-yourself/>
14. Adult Immunisation - ILCUK [Internet]. [cited 2024 Aug 6]. Available from: <https://ilcuk.org.uk/adult-immunisation/>
15. Student nurses permitted to administer flu vaccines under new rules – NursingNotes [Internet]. [cited 2024 Aug 7]. Available from: <https://nursingnotes.co.uk/news/education/student-nurses-will-able-administer-flu-vaccines-under-new-rules/>
16. NHS England – East of England » Patient Group Directions [Internet]. [cited 2024 Aug 7]. Available from: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/east-of-england/information-for-professionals/east-of-england-immunisation-team-2/patient-group-directives/>
17. Patient group directions: who can use them - GOV.UK [Internet]. [cited 2024 Aug 7]. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/patient-group-directions-pgds/patient-group-directions-who-can-use-them>
18. FAQs December 2020 | Faculty of Physician Associates - quality health care across the NHS [Internet]. [cited 2024 Aug 7]. Available from: <https://www.fparcp.co.uk/about-fpa/news/faqs-december-2020>

References

19. Proposal for the use of patient group directions by pharmacy technicians - GOV.UK [Internet]. [cited 2024 Aug 7]. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposal-for-the-use-of-patient-group-directions-by-pharmacy-technicians/proposal-for-the-use-of-patient-group-directions-by-pharmacy-technicians>
20. Immunisation - GOV.UK [Internet]. [cited 2024 Aug 7]. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation>
21. NHS England » NHS vaccination strategy [Internet]. [cited 2024 Aug 7]. Available from: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/nhs-vaccination-strategy/>
22. Prevention in health and social care: vaccination - Health and Social Care Committee [Internet]. [cited 2024 Aug 7]. Available from: <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5803/cmselect/cmhealth/1764/report.html>
23. Vaccine uptake guidance and the latest coverage data - GOV.UK [Internet]. [cited 2024 Aug 7]. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/vaccine-uptake>
24. Coronavirus and vaccination rates in adults by socio-demographic characteristic and occupation, England - Office for National Statistics [Internet]. [cited 2024 Aug 7]. Available from: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthinequalities/bulletins/coronavirusandvaccinationratesinadultsbysociodemographiccharacteristicandoccupationengland/december2020tomarch2023>
25. Clark-Wright J, Hudson P, McCloskey C, Carroll S. Burden of Selected Infectious Diseases Covered by UK Childhood Vaccinations: Systematic Literature Review. *Future Microbiol* [Internet]. 2020 Nov 1 [cited 2024 Aug 7];15(17):1679–88. Available from: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.2217/fmb-2020-0170>
26. Complete routine immunisation schedule from 1 July 2024 - GOV.UK [Internet]. [cited 2024 Aug 7]. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-complete-routine-immunisation-schedule/the-complete-routine-immunisation-schedule-from-february-2022>
27. NHS vaccinations and when to have them - NHS [Internet]. [cited 2024 Aug 7]. Available from: <https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/nhs-vaccinations-and-when-to-have-them/>
28. The UK Vaccination Schedule | Vaccine Knowledge Project [Internet]. [cited 2024 Aug 7]. Available from: <https://vaccineknowledge.ox.ac.uk/uk-schedule#Older-adults-and-risk-groups>
29. Achieving more equitable outcomes: UKHSA Health Equity for Health Security Strategy – UK Health Security Agency [Internet]. [cited 2024 Aug 7]. Available from: <https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2023/11/08/achieving-more-equitable-outcomes-ukhsa-health-equity-for-health-security-strategy/>
30. Building capacity and capability in vaccine clinical trial delivery | NIHR [Internet]. [cited 2024 Aug 7]. Available from: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/partners-and-industry/industry/uk-research-delivery-spotlights/uk-vaccine-innovation-pathway.html>
31. Adult Immunisation - ILCUK [Internet]. [cited 2024 Aug 7]. Available from: <https://ilcuk.org.uk/adult-immunisation/>
32. Autumn booster campaign targets vulnerable and elderly [Internet]. [cited 2024 Aug 7]. Available from: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-bristol-66779765>
33. Why vaccination is important and the safest way to protect yourself - NHS [Internet]. [cited 2024 Aug 7]. Available from: <https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/why-vaccination-is-important-and-the-safest-way-to-protect-yourself/>
34. A guide to vaccinations for adults over 65 | British Society for Immunology [Internet]. [cited 2024 Aug 7]. Available from: <https://www.immunology.org/public-information/vaccine-resources/vaccines-adults-over-65/guide-vaccinations-adults-over-65>