

# CONSENSUS STATEMENT

## Adult Vaccination: A Critical Element to a Life Course Approach to Healthy Ageing for Adults with Diabetes

Diabetes is a significant global public health concern with wide ranging social and economic consequences. In the United Kingdom close to 4 million people live with diabetes, [1] with associated costs expected to reach £16.9 billion by 2035. [2]

Older people with diabetes often deal with additional chronic conditions which together result in a weakened immune system, lowering their defenses against vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs) such as influenza, [3] pneumonia [4] and shingles [5].

On 6-7 September 2018, the International Federation on Ageing (IFA) hosted a "Vaccinations and the At-risk Adult Population of Diabetes" expert meeting in Belfast, United Kingdom, in cooperation with Diabetes UK, the leading charity dedicated to people with diabetes in the United Kingdom.

The multidisciplinary meeting brought together experts in the fields of public health, diabetes, ageing, immunology and sociology from Diabetes UK, Public Health Agency Northern Ireland, Age NI, ILC-UK, Diabetes Frail Ltd., Dingwall Enterprises Ltd., Pfizer, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Queen's University Belfast and Imperial College London.

These key opinion leaders came together to build capacity and gather resources on the importance of adult vaccination for people with diabetes; share knowledge on successful education programs and determine optimal ways to push the agenda forward.

**DiABETES UK**  
KNOW DIABETES. FIGHT DIABETES.

**diabetesFRAIL**  
*The emergence of a concept*

**ilc...**

Cont'd

International  
Longevity Centre UK

**D** DINGWALL ENTERPRISES

**Pfizer**

**HSC** Public Health  
Agency

**ageNI**

**IFA**

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION ON AGEING  
Global Connections

## A consensus was met on the following:

- 1 Vaccination is a critical element of a public health strategy to improve and maintain the health and function of older people with diabetes. Therefore, the primary goal of the meeting was to place adult vaccination as an important preventative approach on the agenda of diabetes organizations
- 2 Key barriers to improving uptake rates in this at-risk population are lack of awareness and misinformation surrounding the importance and availability of vaccines to adults with diabetes
- 3 Cross-sectoral collaboration is critical to raising vaccination on the agenda of diabetes organizations, in the form of joint campaigns, statements and conferences
- 4 Adding evidence-based information on the importance of vaccines for people with diabetes to diabetes self-management programs, diabetes management guidelines (i.e. European Diabetes Working Party for older people) and diabetes conferences has the potential to play an important role in increasing the uptake rates of vaccination for people with diabetes

## Stakeholders

Jane Barratt	International Federation on Ageing
David Cavan	Diabetologist and Author
Albert Clyde	Diabetes UK
Robert Dingwall	Dingwall Enterprises Ltd.
Daniel Howarth	Diabetes UK
Punam Mangtani	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Barbara Nicol	Diabetes UK
Colin Nicol	Diabetes UK
Peter Passmore	Queen's University Belfast
Jillian Patchett	Diabetes UK, NI
Lindsay Prior	Queen's University Belfast
Alison Quinn	HSC Public Health Agency, NI
Linda Robinson	Age NI
Tom Rush	Diabetes UK
Manjyot Singh	Queen's University Belfast
Sandhar	Belfast
David Sinclair	ILC-UK
Alan Sinclair	Diabetes Frail Ltd.
Diane Thomson	Pfizer
Xiaoning Xu	Imperial College London
Megan Acton	International Federation on Ageing

Using their collective capabilities and resources, this consensus statement represents delegates' joint commitment to support cross-sectoral organizations to advocate and mobilize knowledge to their members on the importance of vaccination for adults with diabetes.

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## References

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