



**- Please bring to the attention of all doctors -**

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Contact telephone number: **8226-7177 (24 hours/7 days)**

**Introduction of National Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Influenza Vaccination Program – Preliminary information**

The Australian Government is planning to introduce a vaccination program in response to the current H1N1 influenza pandemic. The vaccine is expected to be available in September. Further information with exact details will be made available as soon as a roll out date is confirmed. The program will only commence when either the vaccine is registered with the TGA or the CMO advises that vaccine studies indicate the vaccine should be released. Dosage regimen will depend on the results of the vaccination trial.

**Who should receive the H1N1 Influenza vaccine?**

The target groups to be vaccinated will be Health Care Workers (HCWs) who have direct contact with patients (including general practice staff), all those with chronic disease including chronic cardiac, respiratory, neurological and renal conditions, immunosuppression, haemoglobinopathies, morbid obesity (BMI>35), DM, and other chronic metabolic disorders. Also included in the priority groups are all indigenous persons and all pregnant women in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester.

**Does this include indigenous children and children with chronic disease?**

The vaccine should not be given to children less than 10 years of age until further safety data is available. This data is not expected until October

**Who will deliver the H1N1 influenza vaccine?**

In South Australia the vaccine will initially be distributed by SA Health to General Practice, all hospitals, participating Aged Care Facilities, and all Aboriginal health services. Other community providers will receive the vaccine as supplies become available.

**How will providers receive the H1N1 influenza vaccine?**

Unlike seasonal flu vaccine where SA Health receives the total allocation in one delivery, the manufacturing process of the H1N1 vaccine will be staggered over 4 -5 months. Dependent on the commencement date of the program, there may not be sufficient supply to distribute vaccine to all immunisation providers (including GPs) in time for the commencement of the program. All immunisation providers will have received some vaccine by late September/early October. Vaccine will possibly be distributed in advance of approval to use. It should not be administered until the CHO had advised that it can be released.

Your first delivery of vaccine will NOT be through the routine ordering process; instead the number of doses you will receive will be allocated by the Vaccine Distribution Centre. All subsequent doses must be ordered through the specific H1N1 vaccine order form that you will receive with your first vaccine delivery. You will be notified of the date of your first delivery of vaccine in the near future.

**Presentation and storage of H1N1 Influenza vaccine**

The vaccine will be presented in multi dose vials (MDVs). Each box of vaccine will contain either 50 vials or 10 vials. Each vial will contain H1N1 09 influenza vaccine 15micrograms/0.5ml. The bulk of the vaccine will be available in boxes of 100 doses. However the initial supply will be in boxes of 900 and 180 doses. The vaccine should be stored between 2 and 8 degrees C. To reduce the risk of freezing aim to have the fridge temperature around 5 degrees C.

**What resources will be available?**

Vaccination Packs - Each provider will receive a pack with syringes, needles and possibly other materials required for delivery of mass vaccination. You will receive the vaccination packs close to the time you will be receiving the vaccine. Information and resources will be distributed prior to you receiving the vaccine. A pack containing information on Eligible groups; Use of MDVs; Adrenaline dosage chart; H1N1 Standing Drug Order; Adrenaline Standing Drug Order; Vaccine Safety Packs.

**Consent forms**

The Commonwealth are developing and distributing a Q and A sheet to accompany the consent form.

**Targeting the priority groups**

It is very important that all providers begin considering the best way of targeting the priority groups and the best way of efficiently delivering the vaccine.

Further information will continue to be made available through the website <http://www.flu.sa.gov.au/> and through fax streams. A separate phone line for providers will be set up shortly.

**Dr Ann Koehler – Director, Communicable Disease Control Branch**

*Information contained within this advice should be treated as confidential and is for the intended recipient only.*