

Flu Vaccination Clinic - Guidelines

Contents

Contents	1
H1N1 09 swine influenza vaccine roll out.....	1
Who is eligible for the funded vaccine?.....	1
The vaccine - Panvax®	2
What to do in general practice	2
Consent to vaccination	3
Running a flu clinic	3
Influenza vaccination clinic checklist	4
H1N1 influenza vaccination clinic attendance tally	5
Protocol for immunisation using multi dose vials	6
Appendix A: Patient invitation letter	7
Appendix B: Panvax information sheet for staff.....	8
Appendix C: Patient Information Leaflet	9

H1N1 09 swine influenza vaccine roll out

The Commonwealth government has announced that a program of vaccination for the following groups would be initiated across Australia in response to the H1N1 2009 "swine flu" outbreak.

An H1N1 Influenza 09 vaccine Panvax® will be available from 30th September 2009

General practice will be able to provide the new H1N1 influenza 09 vaccine to their patients once it is released. State and territory health areas will also be rolling out the vaccine but as with the childhood immunisation program, across the country, the majority of the vaccines will be delivered in the general practice setting. There will be different arrangements in each jurisdiction for public health clinic access to this vaccine.

As this vaccine is additional to the usual immunisation program, it will probably mean an increased workload for general practice and in many cases will need extra time or a variation on normal practice programs.

For this roll out, there is a protocol released by the Commonwealth which prioritises people according to their vulnerability and workplace. For example, those with chronic diseases, who are pregnant or aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander will be a high priority. General practice staff and other health care workers are also a high priority group.

Who is eligible for the funded vaccine?

The free vaccine is only available to those people in these tiered groups. It is not available on the private market.

Tier 1 priority group.

- Health care workers
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Pregnant women (all trimesters)

- Those considered vulnerable to severe infection due to underlying conditions. These include chronic respiratory, cardiac, renal, liver, neurological or metabolic disease, moderate or severe obesity, diabetes, haemoglobinopathies, immunosuppression

The Commonwealth advises that these priority groups are indicative categories rather than restrictive and to apply the criteria loosely. In effect, initially no one over the age of 10 should be denied the vaccine. Younger children will be catered for as soon as the prefilled syringes containing the paediatric dose are available.

The other Tiers will be announced by the Commonwealth at a later date.

The vaccine - Panvax®

Panvax® is an inactivated (killed) monovalent vaccine produced by CSL in the same way as the yearly seasonal flu. There is an extensive body of safety data associated with this flu vaccine and in effect, Panvax® is simply the seasonal flu vaccine with a different new strain.

The Australian Government ordered approximately 21 million doses of this vaccine. It is a clear liquid provided in multi dose vials with a latex free rubber bung and containing thiomersal as the antibacterial preservative. These vials contain either 10 doses (with a red label) or 18 to 20 doses (blue label).

Practices will need to ensure that immunising staff are familiar with and competent with the drawing up of doses from multi dose vials. A protocol for immunisation using multi dose vials is provided with this document.

What to do in general practice

General practices may decide to run flu clinics to cater for their vulnerable patients or opportunistically vaccinate them as they attend regular appointments. A quick guide to running a flu clinic has been provided later but for those practices not running those types of clinics here are some suggestions to cater for daily patients.

1. Promote the availability of the vaccine for vulnerable patients in waiting room.
2. Be aware of the Tiers for the priority groups and opportunistically vaccinate as they attend.
3. Have front desk identification of pregnant women, chronic disease or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients.
4. Create list of Tier 1 patients from medical software.
5. Recall Tier 1 patients using normal practice recall/reminder systems (letter or phone call).
6. Have the Commonwealth Questions and Answers to hand for all health professionals.
7. Provide relevant patient information (and consent form if needed) in waiting room.
8. Add message about the availability of the H1N1 09 vaccine to "on hold" phone messages.

Consent to vaccination

As with all immunisation encounters, patients need to be giving informed consent. This vaccine is now registered and is therefore subject to the same consent process as any other vaccine. Patients need to be made aware that this vaccine is now registered. The Commonwealth has provided a series of Questions and Answers to cover any issues concerning this vaccine program. These can be found at

<http://www.healthemergency.gov.au/internet/healthemergency/publishing.nsf/Content/pandemic-vaccine-qna-toc>

Running a flu clinic

This guide is designed to assist those practices not familiar with running flu vaccination clinics. Practices can adapt the format to suit their local situation.

1. Set dates and session times for flu clinic.
 - Adjust appointment books accordingly.
 - Estimate the number of patients eligible to attend and book the number of sessions required.
 - Allow sufficient time for stock to arrive and patients to receive their invitations and book their appointment.
 - Ensure appropriate arrangements for the storage of additional vaccines are made.
2. Create list of Tier 1 patients from medical software
3. Check resources
 - book time for the doctor and nurse
 - book the venue
 - order the vaccine and any other essential supplies (needles and syringes, sharps container). The Vac Pac supplied by the Commonwealth will contain some drawing up needles and administration needles
4. If your practice intends to recall patients send the patient an invitation letter and/or a phone call (see Appendix B)
5. Instruct receptionists to make appointments for 5-10 minutes
6. Rehearse with all staff involved in vaccination clinic what you will say to patients and ensure all staff are familiar with the support materials available (see Appendix C)
7. Ensure all staff administering and/or managing the cold chain are trained and familiar with use and storage of multi-dose vials
8. Prepare information about the vaccine, its risks and benefits for patients, to be handed out on arrival at the clinic
9. Have your anaphylaxis kit and guide to hand
10. Run the session, ensuring that
 - patient information is handed out on arrival,
 - consent discussed, obtained and recorded,
 - Panvax® administered as per the protocol, recorded and
 - patient asked to wait for 15 minutes post vaccination
11. Ensure records are kept
 - Use the Clinic Attendance Tally sheet, page xx or
 - Record the encounter in your practice software patient notes or manual record system

Influenza vaccination clinic checklist

Photocopy this checklist for each clinic that you run.

Check in

- Use your practice appointment system to record arrival of patients
- Give each patient the vaccine information leaflet and information on consent

Consultation and history

- Go through the pre-vaccination screening checklist (as per the 9th Edition Immunisation Handbook). Ask if the patient is unwell.
- Ask and document all patient allergies (including egg allergy)
- Explain the risks and benefits of the vaccine, including possible side effects as per the patient information leaflet
- Undertake agreed consent interview and document if informed consent is given in medical software or patient notes.
- Document vaccine encounter on tally sheet for later entry into patient record. Include vaccine batch number and consent given/not given.

Vaccinator

- Have vaccine prepared as per the Protocol for Immunisation using Multi Dose Vials
- Ensure patient has the vaccine information sheet
- Ask the patient to wait for 15 minutes before leaving, and observe

Record keeping

- Record attendance and vaccination

The General Practice Network acknowledges the work of Central Highlands Division of General Practice and impetus for materials used to produce this guide.

Protocol for immunisation using multi dose vials

Poster in development and will be sent to all divisions for distribution to practices.

Link to RACGP website for full protocol is www.racgp.org.au/h1n1/33545

Appendix A: Patient invitation letter

Print on practice letterhead paper, sign and print name of sender.

Date

Dear

H1N1 Influenza 09 ('swine flu') vaccination program

You will be aware that the Commonwealth Government is funding vaccinations to protect against H1N1 Influenza 09 (commonly known as swine flu). This free vaccine will initially be available for a targeted group of people.

For the majority of people H1N1 Influenza 09 is a relatively mild illness causing moderate discomfort for most people. However, for certain vulnerable groups of patients there is an increased risk of a more serious complications from influenza. The Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing have determined that the following groups are at greater risk:

- Health care workers
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Pregnant women (all trimesters)
- Those considered vulnerable to severe infection due to underlying conditions. These include chronic respiratory, cardiac, renal, liver, neurological or metabolic disease, moderate or severe obesity, diabetes, haemoglobinopathies, immunosuppression

The vaccine Panvax® will provide protection against this H1N1 influenza 09 virus. Influenza vaccine may cause soreness at the injection site and in rare cases it might cause fever, malaise and myalgia. The vaccine cannot give you the 'flu as it is made from a killed virus. If you have any concerns please discuss them with your doctor.

If you belong to one of the vulnerable groups listed above and you would like to receive the free vaccination you can attend a special flu vaccination clinic. Our practices is running flu clinics on these days;

..... list dates

.....

Please phone XXXXX as soon as possible to book your appointment.

When you arrive at the clinic you will be given an information leaflet and consent form to read prior to seeing the nurse or doctor. You will also be asked to wait for 15 minutes following vaccination so please ensure you leave sufficient time for the appointment.

Yours sincerely

Appendix B: Panvax information sheet for staff

Insert the product information details

Appendix C: Patient Information Leaflet

H1N1 Influenza vaccination (“swine flu”)

Today you have come to have the H1N1 Influenza vaccination).

This vaccine does not contain any live virus and therefore cannot give you the ‘flu. It provides good protection against the H1N1 09 influenza virus and is effective from about 2 weeks after the injection.

It is still considered safe if you are taking other medications, however, you should discuss your personal circumstances with the nurse or doctor before you have the injection.

You should not have the vaccine if you are allergic to eggs. Please let the nurse/doctor know if this is the case.

You will be asked to give informed consent to have the vaccination and the nurse/doctor will explain to you what this means.

Possible side effects

The effects of your vaccination may include:

- Sore injection site
- Mild headache and muscle aches for 24 – 48 hours
- Mild fever.

Severe allergic reactions are extremely rare, however, we ask that you wait for 15 minutes after the vaccination in case a reaction occurs.

What to do at home should you experience a reaction:

- Drink plenty of fluids
- Take paracetamol for pain and fever
- Use an ice pack on the injection site for pain, swelling and redness
- Ring your doctor about any other reactions which concern you.