

## **Influenza vaccination information 28 September 2009**

Dear all,

Following media inquiries regarding the H1N1 Influenza vaccination consent forms Chief Medical Officer Jim Bishop released this statement:

“Filling out the consent forms is not compulsory - they are provided to GPs as an assistance for them - they can make their own clinical decision on the means in which they inform their patient of possible side effects etc, which is normal clinical practice. They can do it verbally if they wish. The distribution of the Consent Forms is to assist doctors to inform their patients.”

It may be useful for the Network to ensure practices are aware of this information.

The Department of Health and Ageing also referred the GP Roundtable committee to this information in the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Vaccination Program – Information for Health Professionals which was released last Monday (21 September 2009).

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO ACCOMPANY THE VACCINE**

Additional printed material will be made available to all immunisation service providers with each order of the vaccine.

#### ***Vaccination consent form***

The Australian Government has produced a Panvax® H1N1 vaccination consent form. The use of the consent form is not a requirement for the purposes of the pandemic (H1N1) 2009 vaccination program. Vaccine providers are advised to have regard to their usual informed consent procedures applicable to the use of vaccines that are registered for use by the TGA. A vaccination consent form can be provided with each dose of vaccine ordered. Please advise your State or Territory health department if you will not be using consent forms or do not require ongoing delivery of consent forms with each order of vaccine placed.

#### ***Vaccine recipient information sheet***

The Australian Government has also produced a ‘take home’ information sheet for vaccine recipients. The information sheet contains information on vaccination of people in priority groups, adverse events post vaccination and the management and reporting of adverse events. One copy of the information sheet will be provided with each dose of vaccine ordered.

**Guidelines for the use of multi-dose vials**

Guidelines have been developed by the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners on how to safely handle, store and administer vaccines from multi-dose vials. A copy of the guidelines will be provided with each vaccine order. The guidelines are also available online at [www.healthemergency.gov.au](http://www.healthemergency.gov.au). Further advice is available from your local general practice network.

**Product information leaflet**

The Panvax® H1N1 vaccine manufacturer, CSL Limited, will provide a copy of the vaccine product information leaflet with each box of vaccine.

**VacPac contents sheet**

Both large and small VacPacs contain a contents sheet for that type of VacPac.

**Guidelines poster**

A poster with instructions on how to use multi dose vials will be distributed to the Network this week for you to pass on to your practices. The poster was developed in partnership with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and with the assistance of CSL.

**USEFUL CONTACT INFORMATION****General information on pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza or the Panvax® H1N1 vaccine**

[www.healthemergency.gov.au](http://www.healthemergency.gov.au)

Pandemic Hotline 180 2007

**Ordering Panvax® H1N1 vaccine and VacPacs**

State or Territory health department

**Panvax® H1N1 vaccine adverse events reporting**

[www.tga.gov.au](http://www.tga.gov.au)

Pandemic Hotline 180 2007

State or Territory health department

**State and Territory contact points for vaccine related information**

WA: 1800 243 522 or [www.public.health.wa.gov.au](http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au)

SA: call 08 8226 7177 or visit and [www.flu.sa.gov.au](http://www.flu.sa.gov.au)

VIC: call: 1300 882 008 or visit [www.humanswineflu.health.vic.gov.au](http://www.humanswineflu.health.vic.gov.au)

TAS: call 1800 358 362 (1800 FLU DOC) or [www.pandemic.tas.gov.au](http://www.pandemic.tas.gov.au)  
ACT: 02 6205 2300 or [www.health.act.gov.au](http://www.health.act.gov.au) and click on Health Professionals  
NSW: visit [www.emergency.health.nsw.gov.au/swineflu/vaccination/index.asp](http://www.emergency.health.nsw.gov.au/swineflu/vaccination/index.asp),  
or call your local Public Health Unit  
([www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/infectious/phus.asp](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/infectious/phus.asp))  
QLD: Your local Population Health Unit  
NT: call 08 89228044 or visit [www.H1N1vaccine.nt.gov.au](http://www.H1N1vaccine.nt.gov.au)