

GP Talking Points – October 2020

Please distribute to all doctors and staff in your practice



The NSW Health Immunisation Unit is now providing brief updates to immunisation providers on common issues which have been raised through discussions with general practitioners and their staff during the previous month. These will be circulated monthly.

Information regarding 2021 influenza season – please see attached letter from Commonwealth Department of Health regarding planning for the Influenza season in 2021 related to private influenza vaccine stock.

Childhood immunisation rates in NSW during COVID

Recent data from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) demonstrates that, despite the challenges that COVID-19 has placed on general practices and your service delivery, childhood immunisation rates in NSW have remained stable. Congratulations to all involved in ensuring this essential clinical service continues. Please refer to [Vaccination advice during COVID](#) for more information on implementing immunisation clinics during COVID.

Expiry dates on vaccines

A recent enhancement to the State Vaccine Centre online ordering system is the ability to report expired vaccines. Please remember that any vaccines with an expiry noted for example as 08/2020 are valid and able to be used until 31/08/2020. Please do not consider these as expired. These can be discarded at the end of the month noted.

For vaccines that have a specific expiry date e.g 21/06/2020 should be considered expired on that date and discarded. These should then be recorded on the Online System.

Please ensure vaccine stock is regularly checked for expiry dates and ensure that all staff are aware of vaccines that are nearing expiry.

Email contact details on State Vaccine Centre online ordering system

NSW Health uses the email address provided on the NSW Vaccine Centre online ordering system to communicate with providers. It is important that you keep this address updated. This can be done by logging on and going to the “amend delivery address” section of the site.

Transporting vaccines between Practices

During the peak demand period for Influenza vaccines in 2020, specific approval was given to transport vaccines (with valid cold chain maintenance monitoring and records) to be transported between GP practices. This was agreed to on the basis of unprecedented demand for influenza vaccine/s. Please note that the transport of NIP vaccines between practices is not a recommended or supported practice. Please contact your local public health unit if you have any vaccine management queries.

Updated Resources

Adverse Events Following Immunisation

Recent additions to the Adverse Events following Immunisation (AEFIs) information on the NSW Health website include new resources about vaccine safety, how to reduce the risk of AEFIs and updated AEFI Data.

[Adverse Events Following Immunisation](#)

Further Information

- For information regarding immunisation issues, please visit the NSW Health website: [Immunisation Programs](#)
- Contact your local Public Health Unit on **1300 066 055**