

# SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION 2017

GENERAL PRACTITIONERS and  
ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICES



Please distribute this information to all doctors and staff in your practice

H17/6003

1. **Four age-specific quadrivalent influenza vaccines (QIVs) will be available free of charge to eligible people under the NIP from April 2017.**
2. **Before administering a flu vaccine, CHECK you have the correct vaccine for the person's age.**
3. **Only FluQuadri™ Junior should be used for children aged 6-35 months.**

## Vaccine availability

- The four QIVs for use in 2017 will cover two A strains of influenza (H1N1/Michigan and H3N2/Hong Kong) and two B strains of influenza (Brisbane and Phuket):
  - **FluQuadri Junior®** (Sanofi Pasteur) for **children from six months to under three years of age**
  - **FluQuadri®** (Sanofi Pasteur) or **Fluarix® Tetra** (GSK) for people **aged three years and older**
  - **Afluria Quad®** (Seqirus) for people **aged 18 years and older only**

## Vaccine eligibility

- The following groups are eligible for free seasonal influenza vaccine:
  - all pregnant women
  - all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged six months to less than 5 years
  - all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over
  - people aged 6 months and over with medical conditions predisposing to severe influenza (see the Australian Immunisation Handbook, 10th edition, at [www.immunise.health.gov.au](http://www.immunise.health.gov.au))
  - all people aged 65 years and over
- Report all doses administered to children and adults to the Australian Immunisation Register.

## Recommendations for children

- Two doses of influenza vaccine at least one month apart are recommended for eligible children aged 6 months to less than 9 years who are receiving influenza vaccine for the first time.
- Only use **FluQuadri™ Junior** for children 6 months to 35 months of age eligible for free vaccine.
- **DO NOT ADMINISTER A HALF DOSE** of FluQuadri™ or Fluarix Tetra® to children aged 6-35 months as these vaccines are not licensed for this use.
- For more information see [www.immunise.health.gov.au](http://www.immunise.health.gov.au) or [www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/)

## Vaccination of doctors and practice staff

- The *Australian Immunisation Handbook*, 10th edition, [www.immunise.health.gov.au](http://www.immunise.health.gov.au) also recommends annual influenza vaccination for all health care workers. Consideration should be given to purchasing influenza vaccine from the private market for vaccination of all doctors and practice staff. **Influenza vaccines provided free under the Australian Government funded program must not be used to vaccinate staff members.**

## Ordering influenza vaccine

- Influenza vaccine may be ordered now online at: <https://nsw.csldirect.com.au/>
- Ring the State Vaccine Centre on 1300 656 132 if you have not already registered for online ordering.
- **Deliveries of influenza vaccine will commence when vaccine becomes available in April 2017.**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'V. Sheppard'.

**Dr Vicky Sheppard**  
Director, Communicable Diseases  
27 February 2017