



COVID-19 VACCINATION

Primary Care Vaccine Roll-out

Provider Bulletin

27 October 2021

Bulletins provide you with regular updates and guidance on the COVID-19 Vaccination Program.

Key Messages

TGA UPDATES

The TGA provisionally approves Pfizer for booster doses

On 27 October 2021, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has provisionally approved the **Comirnaty (Pfizer) vaccine** as a [booster vaccine](#) for **individuals aged 18 years and above**.

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) is considering the regulatory approval and will provide their recommendations on the use of boosters in coming days.

The National COVID Vaccine Taskforce will provide further advice on the implementation of boosters within the COVID-19 Vaccination Program once Government has had the opportunity to consider ATAGI's final recommendations.

ASTRAZENECA

AstraZeneca will continue to be manufactured in Australia

Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) manufacturer [CSL](#) has confirmed that it will continue to produce the vaccine in Australia into 2022. AstraZeneca has confirmed this timeframe and remains committed to fulfilling their contractual agreements to supply 53.8 million doses of AstraZeneca, with the majority manufactured at CSL facilities in Melbourne. There will be no immediate impact on access to AstraZeneca whilst demand remains.

AstraZeneca has also released a [statement](#) confirming their commitment.

REMINDERS

In-reach Practice Incentive Payment

The [In-reach Practice Incentive Payment](#) (PIP) is valid for any in-reach clinics for residential aged or disability care workers run between 29 April 2021 until 31 October 2021.

Please ensure that any in-reach clinics conducted in this timeframe are reported in the COVID-19 Vaccine Administrative System (CVAS) through the 'In Reach Vaccination Reporting' tab by 7 November 2021. Any claims submitted after 7 November 2021 may not be processed.

Cancellation of Orders

We have noted an increase in the number of practices who have been cancelling or reducing their Pfizer orders. The Taskforce understands that circumstances may change between placing your order and its planned delivery date. However, cancellations on the day before (or day of) delivery causes significant difficulties for our logistical and delivery teams. If your practice would like to cancel a vaccine order(s), **please contact the Vaccine Operations Centre (VOC) as soon as possible** to limit the logistical effort associated with cancelling deliveries and reduce the risk of vaccine wastage.

Vaccine Disposal

Vaccine disposal of expired stock is a last resort action and should only be undertaken if all other options have been exhausted, such as:

- maintaining a reserve/cancellation list of patients;
- vaccinating walk-in patients;
- speaking with your Primary Health Network for assistance in transferring stock; or
- speaking with the VOC when you cannot relocate excess doses locally.
 - Please note, when assessing the suitability of stock for collection, the VOC can only accept:
 - 20 vials or more of AstraZeneca; or
 - 10 vials or more of Pfizer.
 - The VOC is open from 7am to 10pm (AEDT) via phone (1800 318 208) or by email (covid19vaccineoperationscentre@health.gov.au) for assistance.

In the event that your doses have expired, please:

- refer to the [COVID-19 Vaccination Training](#) which gives details on how to dispose of vaccines, and
- remember to report wastage through the COVID-19 Vaccine Administrative System (CVAS):
 - wastage less than 5 vials should be reported in your Vaccine Stock Management Report; and
 - wastage of 5 vials and over should also be reported within the Wastage Report.