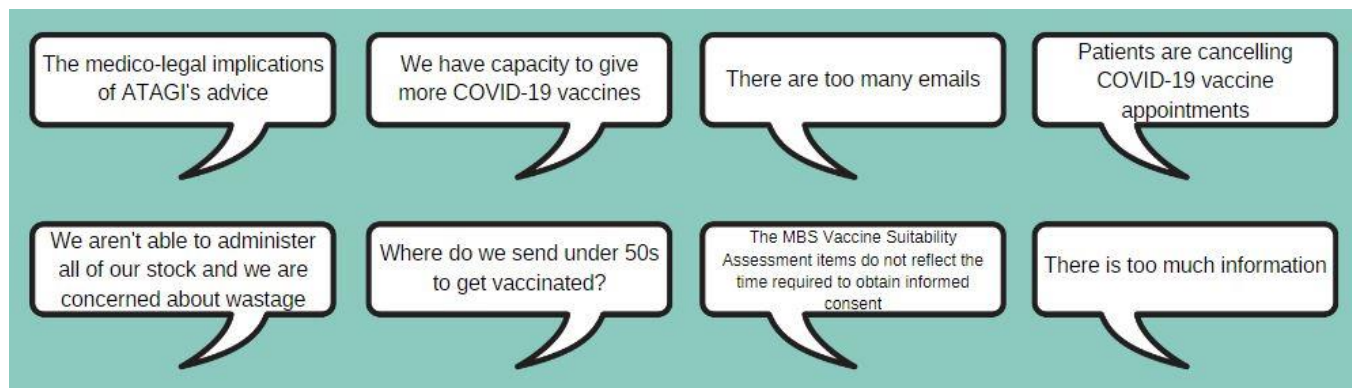


COVID-19 Vaccination GP Update Webinar

14 April 2021

Thank you for attending our COVID-19 Vaccination GP Update webinar on Wednesday 14 April 2021. The recording of this webinar can now be found [here](#). A summary of the webinar, including common issues raised by participants, is below.



We appreciate all of the feedback you have provided and WAPHA will share this with the Australian Government Department of Health to support future planning.

Question & Answer

Where and when can my patients aged under 50 get vaccinated with the Pfizer vaccine?

The Australian Government Department of Health is currently working through the implications of the advice released by the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) with the States and Territories as a matter of urgency. The rollout will be considered and recalibrated to consider the recommendations from ATAGI. WAPHA will provide further updates as decisions are made.

At this stage, there are no Pfizer vaccination clinics listed in the Vaccine Clinic Finder. However, patients under 50 years old can use the Vaccine Eligibility Checker to check they are eligible for a vaccine and to register their interest to receive the Pfizer vaccination. Patients who register their interest will then receive a notification when vaccines are available.

What are the medico-legal risks if I administer a COVID-19 vaccination and the patient has an adverse event?

We understand there is concern amongst GPs regarding the medico-legal risk of administering the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccination. The Australian Government Department of Health has advised the following:

- Indemnity is provided for privately practising health practitioners through a contract of insurance with their preferred indemnity provider. All health professionals are required to have professional indemnity insurance as part of their registration to practice.
- Liabilities associated with the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine would be treated on the same basis as liabilities arising from the administration of any other vaccines under existing indemnity insurance arrangements, subject to any exclusions.
- The Australian Government has programs and initiatives in place. However, in addition, the

COVID-19 Vaccination GP Update Webinar

14 April 2021



Government will review arrangements in the event that a higher than expected number of claims associated with the vaccination effort arises or the measures currently in place prove to be inadequate/insufficient.

- The Australian Government has also agreed to certain indemnities with COVID-19 vaccine suppliers. These indemnities are designed to operate if there are problems which flow from the vaccines themselves.
- The Australian Government appreciates the impact on clinics from the recent ATAGI advice about AstraZeneca. The Australian Government is currently recalibrating the rollout and looking at expanded options for people aged under 50 years.

Some medical indemnity providers have also released advice on this issue:

- <https://www.avant.org.au/covid19/>
- <https://support.mips.com.au/home/administering-vaccines-you-and-your-practice>
- <https://www.miga.com.au/coronavirus>

What resources are available to help me talk to my patients about the risk and benefits of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine?

- [Information on weighing up risks and benefits of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccination](#)
- [Patient information on AstraZeneca vaccine and thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome](#)
- <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/covid-19-vaccination-information-for-immunisation-providers-on-thrombosis-with-thrombocytopenia-syndrome-tts-following-covid-19-vaccination>

We are concerned about our COVID-19 vaccine stock levels (too much or not enough). What can be done?

The Australian Government Department of Health determined the dose allocations for each general practice. Stock control measures have been put in place with tiered caps on allocation based on vaccine supply, estimated throughput and priority population distribution and reach. Allocation during the first few weeks has been set while more than 4,000 practices are on-boarded and receive their first allocations over four weeks. The Australian Government Department of Health has advised that the maximum allocation provided to each site will be reviewed as vaccine availability expands, and data on usage patterns and demand across the system becomes available.

The Australian Government Department of Health (DOH) has [published information here](#) on managing AstraZeneca excess doses. This is for general practice, GP-led Respiratory Clinics and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services.

Key Links

- The Royal College of General Practitioners WhatsApp group. Please email wa@racgp.org.au
- HealthPathways WA: <https://wa.communityhealthpathways.org/>
- Practice Assist: <https://www.practiceassist.com.au/Coronavirus-COVID19/Coronavirus-COVID19-Vaccine-Rollout-Information>
- WAPHA's Employee Assistance Program available for your practice staff: <https://www.practiceassist.com.au/Coronavirus-COVID19/Well-being-and-Support>