IMPORTANT UPDATE FOR VACCINATION PROVIDERS

Latex sheath on Fluad trivalent influenza vaccine

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has investigated a report and confirmed the presence of natural rubber latex in the sheath covering the needle of the trivalent influenza vaccine, Fluad (sponsored by Seqirus), which is available for people aged 65 years and over through the National Immunisation Program (NIP).

Anyone who has a severe allergy (anaphylaxis) to latex should not receive Fluad. Patients aged 65 years and over with a history of anaphylactic reaction to latex can be safely vaccinated with the alternative trivalent influenza vaccine, Fluzone High-Dose (sponsored by Sanofi Pasteur), available through the NIP.

The sponsor of Fluad, Seqirus, commits to update the Product Information and Consumer Medicines Information for this vaccine accordingly.

Action for vaccination providers:

- If you are vaccinating patients with Fluad, please be aware of this issue and advise patients accordingly.
- Before administering Fluad, confirm with patients that they have not had a past anaphylactic reaction to latex.
- Anyone who has a severe allergy (anaphylactic reaction) to latex should not receive Fluad. An alternative trivalent influenza vaccine, Fluzone High-Dose, is available through the NIP.
- As with all vaccinations, be prepared to treat immediate allergic reactions, including potential anaphylaxis.
- If you have any questions or concerns about this issue, contact Seqirus on 1800 642 865.

Further information:

- TGA safety alert: Fluad trivalent influenza vaccine (19 April 2018) available at http://www.tga.gov.au/current-year-alerts