

**H1N1 Influenza 09
Vaccination Program
“Flu Clinic” Guidelines
For
General Practice**

**Version1
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H1N1 09 swine influenza vaccine roll out

The Commonwealth government has announced that a program of vaccination for H1N1 Influenza 09 will be initiated across Australia in response to the H1N1 2009 “swine flu” outbreak.

An H1N1 Influenza 09 vaccine Panvax® will be available from the 30th September 2009.

General practice will be the primary immunisation providers for Panvax®. State and territory health departments will also be rolling out the vaccine to health care workers in public healthcare facilities. There will be different arrangements in each jurisdiction for access to this vaccine.

As this vaccine is additional to the usual immunisation program, it may mean an increased workload for general practice and in many cases will need extra time or a variation on normal practice activities.

For this vaccination program, there are priority groups released by the Commonwealth (see Table 1). General practice staff and other health care workers are also a high priority group. However, the opportunistic vaccination of anyone who wishes to protect themselves from pandemic influenza is also encouraged.

Who is eligible for the funded vaccine?

The following is sourced directly from the Position statement from the Australian Chief Medical Officer and State & Territory Health Officers. Priority groups for pandemic (H1N1) vaccine program. Endorsed on 1 September 2009.

In Australia, the pandemic vaccination program will be focused on vaccinating certain groups at higher risk of exposure (for example, health care workers) and those vulnerable to more severe outcomes as identified in the PROTECT annex to the Australian Health Management Plan for Pandemic Influenza. Table 1 provides further details on these priority groups.

While emphasis will be on targeting these priority groups, the opportunistic vaccination of friends, family, and carers of vulnerable people or anyone who wishes to protect themselves from pandemic influenza is also encouraged.

Any individual wishing to be vaccinated should see their General Practitioner or health care provider. It is not available on the private market or on the PBS.

Table 1: Australian Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 vaccine priority groups

Target group	Definition
Pregnant women	All pregnant women
Those children (initially 10 years and above) and adults with underlying chronic medical conditions including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chronic respiratory conditions • Immuno-suppression • Cancer • Diabetes mellitus • Cardiac disease • Chronic Renal disease • Chronic metabolic diseases • Haemoglobinopathies • Chronic neurological diseases 	Requires clinical judgement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Including asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease Including HIV/AIDS infection, use of immunosuppressive drugs Only malignant cancers Not including simple hypertension
Individuals with moderate to severe obesity	BMI > 35
Health care and community care workers (including volunteers and students)	<p>Health care worker: a person who has direct contact with patients, either in the community or hospital setting, in both public and private practice settings, focusing on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff within or working with Aboriginal Medical Services, general practice, remote or community health clinics, and ambulance services. • All hospital and outpatient staff focusing on those who have direct patient contact. • All staff working in acute care clinics/satellite clinics that provide care, limited to diabetic clinics, alcohol and drug rehabilitation, dialysis and oncology services and perinatal care. <p>Community and residential care workers: Aged care and disability services workers who have direct patient contact while providing community and residential services to vulnerable groups.</p>
Indigenous people and remote and isolated communities with	Self identification of indigenous. Examples of remote and isolated communities include

Target group	Definition
vulnerable people	research communities in the Australian Antarctic Territory and subantarctic islands (vaccination to be provided prior to departure).
Children (initially 10 years and above ¹) in special schools	Children (initially 10 years and above ¹) in schools and institutions that are exclusively special needs based. This does not include mainstream schools with special needs programs.
Parents and Guardians of children aged 0 to 6 months	Parents and Guardian (primary carers) of children aged 0 to 6 months

* Vaccination of children under 10yrs (ie: not currently 10yrs or older) will commence once safety data in this age group is available.

The vaccine - Panvax®

Panvax® is an inactivated (killed) monovalent vaccine produced by CSL Biotherapies in the same way as the yearly seasonal flu. There is an extensive body of safety data associated with this flu vaccine and in effect, Panvax® is simply the seasonal flu vaccine with a different new strain.

The Product Information will be provided with the vaccine. This, along with the Consumer Medicines Information can be found at;
CSL Healthcare Professional website www.panvaxh1n1.com.au.

Username = health

Password = H1N12009

**Note: This is case sensitive.*

The Australian Government ordered approximately 21 million doses of this vaccine. It is a clear liquid provided in multi dose vials with a latex free rubber bung and containing thiomersal as the antibacterial preservative. These vials contain either 10 doses (5ml vial red label) or 18 - 20 doses (10ml vial blue label).

Practices will need to ensure that staff's administering this vaccine are familiar and competent with the drawing up of doses from multi dose vials. The gold standard for this is the ATAGI Guidelines for use of multi dose vials (MDV) available from;

www.healthemergency.gov.au/internet/healthemergency/publishing.nsf/Content/nvp-mdv .

What to do in general practice

General practices may decide to run 'flu clinics' to vaccinate patients in priority groups or opportunistically vaccinate them as they attend regular appointments. A quick guide to running a flu clinic has been provided later in this document. For those practices not running clinics, following are some suggestions to promote the availability of the vaccine at your practice and recall vulnerable patients.

1. Promote the availability of the vaccine for vulnerable patients in waiting room (e.g. posters, brochures, signs).
2. Be aware of the priority groups for vaccination (Table 1) and opportunistically vaccinate as they attend normal appointments.
3. Have front desk identification of priority groups.
4. Create list of priority patients from medical software and/or patient records.
5. Recall patient in priority groups using normal practice recall/reminder systems (letter/text message/phone call).
6. Have the Commonwealth Questions and Answers for H1N1 Influenza 09 vaccine campaign on hand for all health professionals.
7. Provide relevant patient information about the vaccination program and the vaccine in waiting room.
8. Add a message about the availability of the H1N1 09 vaccine to "on hold" phone messages.

Consent to vaccination

As with all immunisation encounters, patients need to give informed consent prior to vaccination. This should be provided as per usual vaccination procedures and documented in patient notes.

Filling out the consent forms is not compulsory, they are provided as assistance for practices to inform their patients. Providers can make their own clinical decision on the means in which they provide information to their patients and obtain informed consent. This may be done verbally as long as its documented in the patient notes.

The Commonwealth has provided a series of Questions and Answers for Providers to address patient questions about this vaccination program. A copy of these has been provided with each order of Panvax®. They can also be found online at www.healthemergency.gov.au/internet/healthemergency/publishing.nsf/Content/nvp-qanda

Running a flu clinic

This guide is designed to assist those practices not familiar with running flu clinics. Practices can adapt the format to suit their situation.

1. **Set dates and session times for flu clinic.**
 - Adjust appointment books accordingly.
 - Estimate the number of patients eligible to attend and book the number of sessions required.
 - Allow sufficient time for stock to arrive and patients to receive their invitations and book their appointment.
 - Ensure appropriate arrangements for the storage of additional vaccines.
2. **Create list of patients in priority groups from patient records**

3. **Check resources**
 - book time for the doctor and nurse
 - book the venue
 - order the vaccine and any other essential supplies (needles and syringes, sharps container, also wipes, pens for writing on the viral). The Vac Pac supplied by the Commonwealth will contain drawing up needles and administration needles.
 - Ensure your practice is set up with an area for patients to be appropriately observed for 15mins after receiving the vaccination
4. **If your practice intends to recall patients, send an invitation letter and/or a 'phone call (see Appendix A).**
5. **Instruct receptionists to make appointments for 5-10 minutes.**
6. **Rehearse with all staff involved in vaccination clinic what you will say to patients and ensure all staff are familiar with the support materials and product information. This information will be provided with the vaccine.**
7. **Ensure all staff administering and/or managing the cold chain are trained and familiar with use and storage of multi-dose vials.**
8. **Provide a patient information sheet about the vaccine to be handed out on arrival at the clinic. This is available from**
[www.healthemergency.gov.au/internet/healthemergency/publishing.nsf/Content/CAC12419C559B5F6CA25763C001A6F89/\\$File/6013%20H1N1%20Priority%20-%20Information%20Sheet%20-%20Children%20Excluded%20WEB.pdf](http://www.healthemergency.gov.au/internet/healthemergency/publishing.nsf/Content/CAC12419C559B5F6CA25763C001A6F89/$File/6013%20H1N1%20Priority%20-%20Information%20Sheet%20-%20Children%20Excluded%20WEB.pdf)
9. **Have your anaphylaxis kit and guide to hand**
Guide available from:
www.gpns.wa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0013/517/GPNSW_Anaphylaxis-Response-Kit.May08.pdf
10. **Run the session, ensuring that**
 - patient information is handed out on arrival,
 - consent discussed, obtained and recorded,
 - Panvax® administered as per the protocol, recorded and
 - patient asked to wait for 15 minutes post vaccination
11. **Ensure records are kept**
 - Use the Clinic Attendance Tally sheet, (below) and ensure that the encounter is recorded in the patient notes (electronic/paper).
 - A Guide for entering Panvax® onto Medical Director is provided in Appendix E.

Influenza vaccination clinic checklist

Photocopy this checklist for each clinic that you run.

Check in

- Use your practice appointment system to record arrival of patients
- Give each patient the vaccine patient information leaflet/pre screening checklist/consent form (if obtaining written consent)

Consultation and history

- Go through the pre-vaccination screening checklist (as per the 9th Edition Immunisation Handbook). Ask if the patient is unwell and identify if any contraindications and document all patient allergies (including egg or chicken feather allergy).
- Ensure the practice has a procedure in place in the event of a contraindication to vaccination being identified. For example; if the patient has a history of Guillain Barre Syndrome, then the patient should be assessed by the GP, who should discuss and weigh up the risks and benefits of receiving the vaccine in conjunction with the patient.
- Explain the risks and benefits of the vaccine, including possible side effects as per the patient information leaflet
- Undertake agreed consent interview and document in patient notes if informed consent is given either written or verbal.
- Document vaccine encounter on tally sheet for later entry into patient record. Include vaccine batch number and consent given.

Vaccinator

- Have vaccine prepared as per the protocol for immunisation using multi dose vials
- Ensure patient has the vaccine information sheet which includes post vaccination care information
- Ask the patient to wait in an area where they can be observed for 15 minutes after the vaccination. .

Record keeping

- Record attendance and vaccination encounter.

The General Practice Network acknowledges the work of Central Highlands Division of General Practice, Impetus (trade mark of North West Melbourne Division of General Practice), GP Victoria for materials used to produce this guide.

H1N1 influenza vaccination clinic attendance tally

Doctor:

Nurse:

Clinic Date:

Name	Vaccine batch number	Consent Given	Entered onto record/software
Total attended			

Appendix A: Patient invitation letter

Date

Dear

H1N1 Influenza 09 ('swine flu') vaccination program

You will be aware that the Commonwealth Government is funding vaccinations to protect against H1N1 Influenza 09 (commonly known as swine flu). This free vaccine will initially be available for a targeted group of people.

The Australian Government have determined that the following groups are at greater risk for pandemic influenza H1N1 09 (swine flu):

- Health care workers
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Pregnant women (at any stage of pregnancy)
- Patients who may be at risk from severe complications if they contract the H1N1 09 Swine Flu virus include patients suffering from :
 - Lung disease or asthma
 - Significantly overweight i.e. > 45kg above your ideal weight
 - Heart problems (not just high blood pressure)
 - Diabetes
 - Kidney or liver disease
 - Blood disorders or anaemia
 - Cancer or HIV/AIDS
 - Brain or nerve diseases

The vaccine Panvax® will provide protection against this H1N1 influenza 09 virus only. Influenza vaccine may cause some mild side effects such as soreness at the injection site. The vaccine cannot give you the 'flu' as it is made from a killed virus. If you have any concerns please discuss them with your doctor.

If you belong to one of the vulnerable groups listed above and you would like to receive the free vaccination you can attend a special flu vaccination clinic. Our practices is running flu clinics on these days;

..... list dates

.....

Please phone XXXXX as soon as possible to book your appointment.

If you are unsure if you are in these vulnerable groups then contact the practice to discuss.

When you arrive at the clinic you will be given an information leaflet and consent form to read prior to seeing the nurse or doctor. You will also be asked to wait for 15 minutes following vaccination so please ensure you leave sufficient time for the appointment. As with all vaccinations, patients should be observed for at least 15 minutes after receiving the vaccine to check for any unusual side effects or reactions. Together with the information provided and questions you will be asked before you are given the vaccine, a short observation period is another important way your GP is ensuring your safety.

Yours sincerely

Appendix B: Entering Panvax® into medical software - Adults

Best Practice

Download the October 2009 update from www.bpssoftware.com.au and run it. This is over 100 Mb but will import Panvax® directly into the vaccines list (see Figure 1).

Figure 1

The screenshot shows the 'Immunisation' window with the following fields and options:

- Available vaccines:** A table with two columns: 'Vaccine' and 'Against'. The 'Panvax' row is highlighted.
- Vaccine given:** Text box containing 'Panvax'.
- Billing provider:** Dropdown menu with 'Dr. F. Findacure' selected. Includes an unchecked checkbox for 'Include inactive providers'.
- Given by:** Dropdown menu with 'Dr. F. Findacure' selected.
- Site:** Dropdown menu (empty) and 'Sequence: 1'.
- Route:** Three unchecked checkboxes: 'IMI', 'SC', and 'Oral'.
- Date given:** Dropdown menu with '30/09/2009' selected. 'Batch No.:' dropdown menu (empty).
- Comment:** Text area (empty).
- Send reminder:** Unchecked checkbox. 'Reminder date:' dropdown menu with '30/09/2009' selected.
- Save batch number:** Unchecked checkbox.
- Buttons:** 'Save' and 'Cancel'.

Vaccine	Against
Mumps	Mumps
NeisVac-C	Meningococcus C
Orochol	Cholera
Panvax	H1N1 Influenza
Pediacel	Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Poliomyelitis
PedvaxHIR	HIR

Medical Director

Access the HCN website www.hcn.com.au specifically to the downloads page www.hcn.com.au/products/md/md_download.asp.

MD3

Click on the download link on MD/PS3.10.2 Update (17 Mb). After download run on the server.

Click on the + on the immunisation page - the Panvax H1N1vaccine is listed (see Figure 2)

Figure 2

The screenshot shows a 'Vaccination Window' with the following fields and values:

- Vaccine given elsewhere
- Vaccinator: Dr. A. Practitioner
- Consent provided by: Patient Vaccination declined
- Date: 30/09/2009
- Type: PANVAX H1N1
- Site: Deltoid IM, Right side
- Sequence: (empty)
- Batch No: (empty) Store batch No
- Comment: (empty text area)

Buttons at the bottom: Mark for recall, Save, Cancel.

MD2

Download the update called MD 2.96a Immunisations update for MD2 (3.5 Mb). Click on the + on the immunisation page a window will appear (see Figure 3) and Panvax H1N1 can be entered.

Figure 3

This screenshot is similar to Figure 2, but with 'PANVAX H1N1' entered in the Type field. The other fields are the same as in Figure 2.

Buttons at the bottom: Mark for recall, Save, Cancel.

* Note: The above is for adult immunisations only.

The General Practice Network acknowledges the work of Central Sydney Division of General Practice in providing advice and screen shots for Appendix B.