



## Drug Therapy Protocols: Influenza vaccine 2023

<b>Policy code</b>	DTP_INF_0423
<b>Date</b>	April, 2023
<b>Purpose</b>	To ensure a consistent procedural approach to influenza vaccine 2023 administration.
<b>Scope</b>	Applies to all Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) clinical staff.
<b>Health care setting</b>	Pre-hospital assessment and treatment.
<b>Population</b>	Applies to all ages unless specifically mentioned.
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<b>Author</b>	Clinical Quality & Patient Safety Unit, QAS
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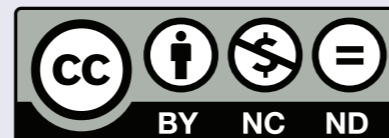
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## Drug class

Vaccine<sup>[1]</sup>

## Pharmacology

Inactivated split virus vaccine for the prevention of southern hemisphere influenza virus types A and B.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Metabolism

Not applicable.

## Indications

**Note:** Influenza vaccines may only be administered by paramedics with specific approval of the QAS Medical Director.

- Prevention of seasonal influenza for QAS employees

## Contraindications

- Allergy AND/OR Adverse Drug Reaction to an influenza vaccine and/or components
- Known allergy to eggs or egg products

### Refer to General Practitioner for any of the following:

- Current immune-oncologic therapy
- Hypersensitivity to the influenza vaccine AND/OR its components (as listed on the Consumer Medicines Information)
- Current episode of febrile illness (temperature greater than 38.5°C) or acute systemic illness
- Bleeding disorders OR current anti-coagulant therapy
- History of Guillain-Barre syndrome

**Precautions**

- Persons who are:
  - aged 65 years or over OR
  - pregnant OR
  - immunocompromised

It is recommended these persons speak to their GP first. Those aged 65 years or over are recommended to receive a different influenza vaccine to assist with a stronger immune response.

**Side effects**

- Allergic reaction
- Discomfort, redness and swelling at the injection site
- Headache
- Malaise
- Mild fever

**Presentation**

- Injection (pre-filled syringe) Afluria® Quad, FLUAD® Quad, FluQuadri™, Vaxigrop Tetra™ and Fluarix® Tetra.

**Onset**

Variable

**Duration**

Variable

**Half-life**

N/A

**Schedule**

- S4 (Restricted drugs).

**Routes of administration**

Intramuscular injection (IM)



**Special notes**

- Ambulance officers must only administer medications for the listed indications and dosing range. Any consideration for treatment outside the listed scope of practice requires mandatory approval via the QAS Clinical Consultation and Advice Line.
- The influenza vaccine has been shown to be very effective at preventing influenza.
- Only ambulance officers who are authorised by the QAS Medical Director and have undergone the required education and training are permitted to possess and/or administer the influenza vaccination.

Special notes

- Paramedic immunisers must:
  - read this Drug Therapy Protocol (DTP) in conjunction with the Paramedic Immuniser Document and CPP: *QAS employee influenza vaccination*.
  - only administer the influenza vaccination, with consent, to a QAS employee. Paramedic immunisers must not administer the influenza vaccination to the general public.
  - have access to the current online edition of the Australian Immunisation Handbook when providing an influenza immunisation clinic.
  - ensure vaccine cold chain management is maintained in accordance with the *Strive for Five National Vaccine Storage Guidelines*.
  - ensure that adrenaline is immediately available in case of anaphylaxis or severe allergic reaction.
  - be aware of ‘Shoulder Injury Related to Vaccine Administration (SIRVA)’ complication that is caused by administering the vaccine too high in the shoulder joint.
- To report an adverse reaction to influenza vaccination, submit the Adverse Event Following Immunisation (AEFI) Form published on the Queensland Health website.
- Vaccine recipients must be observed by the paramedic immuniser

Adult dosages<sup>[1]</sup>

For the prevention of seasonal influenza for QAS employees

ACP2  
CCP

IM

Afluria® Quad, FluQaudri™, INFLUVAC TETRA, Fluarix® Tetra OR Vaxigrip Tetra™

Inject pre-filled syringe slowly over a count of 5 seconds into the deltoid.  
**Single dose only.**