



Drug Therapy Protocols: Influenza vaccine 2025

Policy code	DTP_INF_0125
Date	January, 2025
Purpose	To ensure a consistent procedural approach to influenza vaccine 2023 administration.
Scope	Applies to all Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) clinical staff.
Health care setting	Pre-hospital assessment and treatment.
Population	Applies to all ages unless specifically mentioned.
Source of funding	Internal – 100%
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Influenza vaccine 2025

January, 2025

Drug class

Vaccine^[1]

Pharmacology

Inactivated split virus vaccine for the prevention of southern hemisphere influenza virus types A and B.^[1]

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
 - breastfeeding 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 for 15 minutes and must not operate a vehicle during this time.

Adult dosages^[1]

For the prevention of seasonal influenza for QAS employees

ACP2	CCP	IM	<p>Afluria® Quad, FluQaudri™, INFLUVAC TETRA, Fluarix® Tetra OR Vaxigrip Tetra™</p> <p>Inject pre-filled syringe slowly over a count of 5 seconds into the deltoid.</p> <p>Single dose only.</p>
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