

Prescribing and Medicines Optimisation Guidance

Issue: 35

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1. MHRA: Managing allergic reactions following COVID-19 vaccination with the Pfizer/ BioNTech vaccine (9th December 2020) ([link](#))

The MHRA have issued updated guidance to COVID-19 vaccination centres about the management of anaphylaxis, following two reports of anaphylaxis and one report of a possible allergic reaction following immunisation. This advice includes:

- Any person with a history of immediate-onset anaphylaxis to a vaccine, medicine or food should not receive the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine. A second dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine should not be given to those who have experienced anaphylaxis to the first dose of Pfizer/BioNTech vaccination.
- Vaccine recipients should be monitored for 15 minutes after vaccination, with a longer observation period when indicated after clinical assessment.
- A protocol for the management of anaphylaxis and an anaphylaxis pack must always be available whenever the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine is given. Immediate treatment should include early treatment with 0.5mg intramuscular adrenaline (0.5ml of 1:1000 or 1mg/ml adrenaline), with an early call for help and further IM adrenaline every 5 minutes. The health professionals overseeing the immunisation service must be trained to recognise an anaphylactic reaction and be familiar with techniques for resuscitation of a patient with anaphylaxis.

Information for healthcare professionals and the public about the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine is regularly updated on the MHRA website. ([LINK](#))

The MHRA request that reports for any suspected adverse drug reactions or side effects from medicines and adverse incidents involving medical equipment relating to COVID-19 treatment be reported through the [COVID-19 Yellow Card reporting site](#).

2. Public Health England: COVID-19 vaccination programme resources ([Link](#)) (15th December)

Many PHE resources have been grouped together including guidance for healthcare workers, training information, leaflets, posters, consent letters/forms and the new **Green Book chapter 14a** ([link](#)) on COVID-19 vaccination information for public

health professionals. This collection also links to PHE's overarching document, **COVID-19 vaccination programme: Information for healthcare practitioners (v2)**. ([Link](#))

3. NHS England :Standard operating procedure: COVID-19 local vaccination services deployment in community settings ([Link](#))

This SOP, released on 10th December covers preparation for local vaccination services, staff training, supply inventory list, identification of eligible cohorts, booking and communication, consent, clinical review, delivery of vaccination, post-vaccination observation and records management.

Regular updates will occur to all COVID-19 vaccination documents, so please ensure you always refer to the latest online version.

4. British Society of Rheumatology: Clinical guide during the COVID-19 pandemic for the management of patients with musculoskeletal and rheumatic conditions who are using corticosteroids. ([Link](#))

This update, dated 20th November 2020, makes recommendations on management of patients with musculoskeletal and rheumatic conditions who are already taking or require initiation of corticosteroids, or require a corticosteroid injection in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Previous bulletins can be found at:

<https://gp-portal.westhampshireccq.nhs.uk/medicines/covid-19-medicines-information/covid-19-medicines-optimisation-bulletins/>