

Pfizer, Incentive Payments, Fees and VCF updates

Dear Service Provider,

This email includes information regarding a range of matters relevant to pharmacies participating in the COVID-19 Vaccination in Community Pharmacy (CVCP) Program, as follows:

- Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine available in community pharmacies
- New vaccination incentive payments for vulnerable cohorts
- Claiming fees for third doses and boosters from 1 December 2021
- Vaccine Clinic Finder updates.

Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine available in community pharmacies

As previously advised, Pfizer booster doses are now authorised following ATAGI advice and Pfizer doses are to be available in Community Pharmacy. **Pharmacies can commence administering boosters immediately**, in line with the ATAGI advice, once supply is received. Note that pharmacies are also able to administer the Pfizer vaccine to patients as part of their primary course (i.e. for their first or second dose), however are encouraged to focus efforts on the use of existing vaccine stock where possible.

The National COVID Vaccine Taskforce has updated a range of documents on the Department of Health's website to support vaccination providers in administering COVID-19 booster doses to individuals aged 18 years and over:

- [ATAGI statement on booster doses](#)
- [Consent form](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination – ATAGI clinical guidance on COVID-19 vaccines in Australia](#)

Providing primary course doses to any eligible person who has yet to receive two vaccine doses is of key importance to ensure everyone has protection against the COVID-19 vaccine.

Vaccination Incentive Payments

New incentive payments have been announced and will be available for community pharmacies to deliver and claim from 8 November 2021 until 30 June 2022, as follows:

- **Site Visit payment** (flag fall) of \$57.25 for pharmacies who visit vulnerable patients and workers to administer COVID-19 vaccinations. Details as follows:
 - To be eligible vaccination(s) must be delivered to patients and workers in a residential aged care facility, residential disability facility or a patient's place of residence if the patient is house-bound and unable to visit a primary care vaccination site
 - Pharmacies will receive the payment per site visit, regardless of how many vaccinations are completed at the site, this is in addition to any other fees payable (e.g. CVCP vaccine administration fee or Residential Care Incentive payment (refer below)).
- **Residential Care Incentive payment** to vaccinate workers and residents at residential aged care and residential disability care facilities.
 - Pharmacies that provide a vaccination to 50 eligible workers (across any number of facilities) will receive a \$1,000 payment
 - Once a pharmacy has claimed the initial \$1,000 payment they will be eligible to receive \$20 for each additional worker or resident vaccinated
 - Doses are only eligible if administered at the residential aged care or disability facility
 - Note that in accordance with the Program Rules, pharmacies must notify the PPA of their intention to deliver off-site vaccinations prior to commencing service delivery.

Pharmacies are requested to liaise with their local PHN to arrange site visits to residential aged care and residential disability care facilities.

Claims for these payments will be processed manually, with payments made monthly in arrears. Pharmacies will be able to lodge claims from 8 November 2021 by navigating to the CVCP Program page in the PPA Portal and following the instructions at the top of the *View Claims* tab. A User Guide will also be available on the PPA website. **Further details regarding these payments will be outlined in the updated Program Rules to be released by 8 November 2021.**

Claiming for boosters and third doses from 1 December 2021

As previously advised, Pfizer booster doses can be administered immediately, in line with the ATAGI advice, once supply is received.

Boosters and third doses can be claimed in the PPA Portal from 1 December 2021 via the new 'Additional Dose' claim type that will be available from that date and via professional services software a short time after. **These claims will attract a fee of \$16 for pharmacies in MM1 and \$19 for pharmacies in MM2-7.** *Note that fees for first doses and second doses remain unchanged, including the payment of \$26 in MM1 or \$29 in MM2-7 for administration of second doses where the same provider administered the first dose.*

Please note that for boosters and/or third doses administered prior to 1 December 2021 you can either choose to:

- Wait and claim from 1 December; or
- Claim using the interim arrangements as outlined in the email from the PPA on 15 October 2021.

Vaccine Clinic Finder Updates

The Vaccine Clinic Finder (VCF) continues to be improved by the Taskforce to assist consumers to access COVID-19 vaccines. Recent improvements are as follows:

- Adding advice regarding third doses for severely immunocompromised Australians and boosters in line with advice from the [Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation \(ATAGI\) recommendations](#)
- Translating the VCF into 15 languages other than English
- Removing the question regarding age and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander question.

Note that removing the age question makes it simpler for people to access appointments, however it reduces controls over the vaccines people can access via VCF. Pharmacies should continue to comply with TGA approval and ATAGI guidance for vaccines recognising in particular that Pfizer and Moderna are available to people aged 12 and over and AstraZeneca is available to people aged 18 and over.

The Taskforce will continue to improve VCF based on feedback received, to make it simpler and easier to use and will keep pharmacies updated on planned changes.

The VCF is the only way to see all COVID-19 vaccination clinics nationally including state, territory and Commonwealth clinics, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services,

General Practices and Community Pharmacies. In collaboration with booking system vendors, it is a trusted source for COVID-19 vaccine clinic locations and availability that offers real-time appointment availability of all COVID-19 vaccination clinic types and connection to clinic booking platforms.

The need for the VCF is ongoing – it will be an enduring foundation for national digital health infrastructure for managing COVID and other healthcare services in the longer term.

Kind regards,

Pharmacy Programs Administrator