

# DATA SHEET

## Name of Medicinal Product

### FLUARIX

*Inactivated split influenza vaccine*

## Presentation

FLUARIX is an inactivated and purified split influenza vaccine, prepared in embryonated eggs.

The antigen composition and strains for the approaching influenza season are determined by the World Health Organisation (WHO). This corresponds to the following types and subtypes:

A/California/7/2009 (H1N1) derived strain used NYMC X-181

A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2) like strain used NYMC X-187 derived from A/Victoria/210/2009

B/Brisbane/60/2008

Each 0.5 mL vaccine dose contains 15 µg haemagglutinin of each of the recommended strains, in phosphate buffered saline. The vaccine preparation also contains other excipients including saccharose, d-alpha-tocopheryl acid succinate and traces of formaldehyde and gentamicin sulphate.

Fluarix meets the WHO requirements for biological substances and influenza vaccines.

## Clinical Particulars

### *Therapeutic indications*

Fluarix is indicated for prophylaxis against influenza in adults and children older than six months of age. Because of the possibility of increased morbidity and mortality from complications of influenza, vaccination is especially recommended for the following:

- Persons over 60 years of age,
- Persons who suffer from diseases of the cardiovascular system, metabolic diseases (diabetes), cystic fibrosis, chronic respiratory diseases, and chronic renal insufficiency,
- Persons with congenital or acquired immune deficiency.

Vaccination can be recommended for individuals exposed to increased risk of infection because of their occupation, such as medical personnel. In addition, prevention of disease in the workforce could lead to substantial economic benefits.

Fluarix should be administered before the beginning of the influenza season or as

required by the epidemiological situations. Vaccination should be repeated every year with an age-appropriate dose of vaccine of updated antigen composition.

### ***Posology and method of administration***

#### **Posology**

The following dosage schedule is recommended.

<i>Age</i>	<i>Dose</i>	<i>Number of doses</i>
6-35 months	0.25mL	1 or 2 <sup>*</sup>
3-8 years	0.5mL	1 or 2 <sup>*</sup>
>9 years	0.5mL	1

<sup>\*</sup>Two doses separated by at least four weeks if the vaccine is being administered for the first time.

#### **Method of administration**

FLUARIX can be administered intramuscularly or subcutaneously.

FLUARIX should be administered subcutaneously to subjects with thrombocytopenia or a bleeding disorder since bleeding may occur following an intramuscular administration to these subjects.

FLUARIX should under no circumstances be administered intravenously.

#### **Contraindications**

FLUARIX should not be administered to subjects with known hypersensitivity to egg proteins, to gentamicin or to any other constituent of the vaccine.

#### **Special warnings and special precautions for use**

As with other vaccines, the administration of FLUARIX should be postponed in subjects suffering from acute severe febrile illness. The presence of a minor illness with or without fever should not contraindicate the use of FLUARIX.

FLUARIX will only prevent disease caused by influenza viruses.

Infections with other agents causing flu-like symptoms are not prevented by the vaccine.

As with all injectable vaccines, appropriate medical treatment and supervision should

always be readily available in case of a rare anaphylactic reaction following the administration of the vaccine.

Syncope (fainting) can occur following, or even before, any vaccination as a psychogenic response to the needle injection. It is important that procedures are in place to avoid injury from faints.

### ***Interaction with other medicaments and other forms of interaction***

Immunisation can be affected by concomitant immunosuppressive therapy or an existing immunodeficiency.

FLUARIX can be administered simultaneously with other vaccines. However, different injection sites must be selected.

### ***Pregnancy and lactation***

Adequate human data on use during pregnancy are not available. Animal studies do not indicate direct or indirect harmful effects with respect to reproductive and developmental toxicity. However, as with all inactivated viral vaccines, the risks to the fetus are considered to be negligible. FLUARIX should be used during pregnancy only when clearly needed, and the possible advantages outweigh the potential risks for the foetus.

Adequate human data on use during lactation and adequate animal reproduction studies are not available. There is no known contraindication in the use of FLUARIX during lactation.

### ***Effects on ability to drive and use machines***

The vaccine is unlikely to produce an effect on the ability to drive and use machines.

### ***Undesirable effects***

#### **Clinical trial data**

In controlled clinical studies, Fluarix was administered to more than 22,000 subjects aged 18 to over 60 years and to more than 2,000 subjects from 6 months to 18 years of age. Signs and symptoms were solicited in all subjects for seven days following the administration of the vaccine. A checklist was used for this purpose. The vaccinees were also requested to report any clinical events occurring during the 30 days study period.

Undesirable effects reported are listed according to the following frequency:

Very common:  $\geq 1/10$

Common:  $\geq 1/100$  to  $< 1/10$

Uncommon:  $\geq 1/1,000$  to  $< 1/100$

Rare:  $\geq 1/10,000$  to  $< 1/1,000$

Very rare:  $< 1/10,000$

#### **Metabolism and nutrition disorders**

Very common: appetite loss<sup>1</sup>

### Psychiatric disorders

Very common: irritability<sup>1</sup>

### Nervous system disorders

Very common: drowsiness<sup>1</sup>, headache

Uncommon: dizziness

### Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders

Common: sweating

### Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders

Very common: myalgia

Common: arthralgia

### General disorders and administration site conditions

Very common: pain at the injection site, fatigue

Common: redness<sup>2</sup>, swelling<sup>2</sup> and induration at the injection site, shivering

Uncommon: fever<sup>3</sup>, ecchymosis

<sup>1</sup>reported in subjects 6 months to 5 years old

<sup>2</sup>very common in subjects 6 months to 18 years of age

<sup>3</sup>common in subjects 6 months to 18 years of age

## **Post marketing data**

### Blood and lymphatic system disorders

Rare: transient lymphadenopathy, transient thrombocytopenia

### Immune system disorders

Rare: allergic reactions (including anaphylactic reactions)

### Nervous system disorders

Rare: neuritis, acute disseminated encephalomyelitis, neuralgia, paraesthesia, febrile convulsions, rigours, Guillain Barré syndrome\*

\*Spontaneous reports of Guillain-Barré syndrome have been received following vaccination with Fluarix; however, a causal association between vaccination and Guillain-Barré syndrome has not been established.

### Gastrointestinal disorders

Rare: vomiting, diarrhoea

### Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders

Rare: urticaria, pruritus, erythema, rash, angioedema

### Vascular disorders:

Vasculitis associated in very rare cases with transient renal involvement

### General disorders and administration site conditions

Rare: influenza-like illness, malaise

## Overdose

Not applicable.

## Pharmacological Properties

### Pharmacodynamic properties

FLUARIX induces humoral antibodies against the haemagglutinins. These antibodies neutralise influenza viruses.

A haemagglutinin inhibition titre equal to or greater than 1 : 40 in the serum is considered to be protective.

FLUARIX provides protection for the ongoing influenza season.

The seroconversion rates of FLUARIX have been assessed for each influenza vaccine season. The seroprotection rates following vaccination were in excess of the requirements from the European Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) criteria for influenza vaccines (> 70% for adults 18-60 years and > 60% for adults 60 years and above).

Significant increases in serum titres of antibodies cross-reacting with Influenza A and B drift variants have been observed after vaccine with FLUARIX.

A clinical study performed in more than 7,600 subjects in the Czech Republic and Finland evaluated the efficacy of Fluarix to prevent culture-confirmed influenza A and/or B cases for vaccine antigenically matched strains.

Subjects were monitored for influenza-like illnesses followed by culture-confirmed influenza (see below table for results). Influenza-like illness was defined as at least one general symptom (fever  $\geq 37.8^{\circ}\text{C}$  and/or myalgia) and at least one respiratory symptom (cough and/or sore throat).

**Table: Attack rates and Vaccine Efficacy against Illness associated with evidence of influenza A or B Infection in adults 18 to 64 years of age (Total Vaccinated Cohort)**

	Attack Rates (n/N) <sup>1</sup>			Vaccine Efficacy (95% CI <sup>2</sup> )		
	N	n	%	%	LL <sup>3</sup>	UL
Antigenically matched, culture-confirmed Influenza <sup>4</sup>						
Fluarix	5,103	49	1.0	66.9	51.9	77.4
Placebo	2,549	74	2.9	-	-	-
All culture-confirmed Influenza (Matched, Unmatched and Untyped) <sup>5</sup>						
Fluarix	5,103	63	1.2	61.6	46.0	72.8
Placebo	2,549	82	3.2	-	-	-

1. n/N: number of case/total number of subjects

2. CI: Confidence Interval

3. LL: Lower Limit

4. There were no vaccine matched culture-confirmed cases of A/New Caledonia/20/1999 (H1N1) or B/Malaysia/2506/2004 influenza strains with Fluarix or placebo

5. Of the 22 additional cases, 18 were unmatched and 4 were untyped; 15 of the 22 cases were A (H3N2) (11 cases with Fluarix and 4 cases with placebo).

### ***Pharmacokinetic properties***

Evaluation of pharmacokinetic properties is not required for vaccines.

### ***Preclinical safety data***

Non-clinical data reveal no special hazards for humans based on conventional studies of acute toxicity, local tolerance, repeated dose toxicity, reproductive/developmental toxicity, and safety pharmacology.

## **Pharmaceutical Particulars**

### **Incompatibilities**

FLUARIX should not be mixed with other vaccines in the same syringe.

### **Special precautions for storage**

Fluarix must be stored between +2°C and +8°C.

DO NOT FREEZE. Discard if vaccine has been frozen.

### **Instructions for use/handling**

Vaccines should be inspected visually for any foreign particulate matter and/or variation of physical aspects prior to administration. Before use, the vaccine should be well shaken to obtain a colourless to slight opalescent liquid. Discard if the content appears otherwise.

Any unused product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

### **Shelf life**

The expiry date of the vaccine is indicated on the label and packaging.

When stored under the prescribed conditions, the shelf life is 12 months.

## **Medicine Classification**

Prescription Medicine.

## **Package Quantities**

Prefilled syringes: 0.5mL in packs of 1 and 10.

## **Name and Address**

GlaxoSmithKline NZ Ltd  
Private Bag 106600  
Downtown Auckland 1143  
NEW ZEALAND

Telephone: (09) 367 2900

Fax: (09) 367 2910

## **Date of Preparation**

14 October 2011

Version: 6.0