

13 April 2021

Dear Healthcare Provider,

**Important information: Influenza vaccines for SH2021**

There are some changes to the influenza vaccines that will be available for funded and private use for the 2021 season. The four influenza vaccines will each be targeted to a specific age group:

<b>Approved Age Group</b>	<b>Brand</b>	<b>Pack Size</b>
6 months – 35 months	Afluria® Quad Junior	Singles
36 months – 4 years	Influvac® Tetra	Singles
5 years to 64 years	Afluria® Quad	Tens
65 years and over	FLUAD® Quad	Tens

Increased pressure on global vaccine production resources and manufacturing-related issues have resulted in additional vaccine brands being made available for New Zealand this season. It is important to note that each brand is for a specific age group.

For the 2021 season, Afluria Quad is approved by Medsafe only for patients aged 5 years and over. Seqirus will supply the Influvac Tetra brand for children aged 36 months - 4 years.

Please note that the Afluria Quad carton states: *Directions for use: see enclosed leaflet*. For the SH2021 season, the enclosed leaflet is the Australian Product Information. **Please refer to the New Zealand approved Data Sheet for current information for both Afluria Quad and Afluria Quad Junior at [www.medsafe.govt.nz](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz)**

All medicines and vaccines are subject to approval by Medsafe to ensure they meet New Zealand's standards for quality, safety and efficacy.

We acknowledge the additional workload and logistics for vaccinators in managing four funded brands of vaccine. Our key aim is to ensure that there is continuity of vaccine supply for patients.

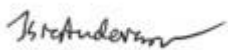
**Next steps**

It's important that healthcare professionals and immunisation providers are supported with clear information and product labelling to ensure they use the right vaccine for the right age group. Due to the manufacturing issues noted above for Afluria Quad, the vaccine is likely to arrive in the country later than planned.

We have advised PHARMAC and the Ministry of Health, and you will receive further information from the Ministry of Health about the operational impacts shortly.

Should you require additional information please contact Seqirus Medical Information on 0800 502 757.

Best wishes



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**AFLURIA® QUAD and AFLURIA® QUAD JUNIOR** are inactivated split virion quadrivalent influenza vaccines, suspension for injection supplied in pre-filled single-dose syringes. **Funded Prescription Medicines – Restrictions Apply.** Indicated for use in children 6-35 months and in persons aged 5 years and over, for the prevention of influenza caused by the four A and B virus types contained in the vaccine. Before prescribing, please review the Data Sheet for information on dosage, contraindications, precautions, interactions and adverse effects. The Data Sheet (March 2021) is available at [www.medsafe.govt.nz](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz), or from Seqirus (NZ) Ltd, Auckland. AFLURIA® QUAD and AFLURIA® QUAD JUNIOR are registered trademarks of Seqirus UK Ltd.

**FLUAD® Quad** is a funded Prescription Medicine — restrictions apply. FLUAD® Quad is an inactivated vaccine, with an MF59® Adjuvant, in a single-dose glass syringe. FLUAD® Quad is indicated for active immunisation against the strains of seasonal influenza, for people 65 years of age and older. Before prescribing FLUAD® Quad, please review the Data Sheet for information on dosage, contraindications, precautions, interactions and adverse effects. The Data Sheet (December 2020) is available at [www.medsafe.govt.nz](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz), or from Seqirus (NZ) Ltd, Auckland. FLUAD® and FLUAD® Quad are registered trademarks of Seqirus UK Ltd. NZL-FLU-21-0014. TAPS DA2104ER.

**INFLUVAC TETRA** is a funded Prescription Medicine. For prescribing information see [www.medsafe.govt.nz](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz). Influvac Tetra is a trademark of Viatrix (formerly Mylan).