

2021 NIP influenza vaccination program

Dear Provider,

I am writing to remind you about the importance of checking expiration dates of vaccines, disposing of out of date stock and reporting accurate data to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).

As you know, it is mandatory under the *Australian Immunisation Register Act 2015* for all vaccination providers to report **all** influenza vaccinations administered on or after 1 March 2021 to the AIR.

A recent incident reported by a General Practice, where some 2020 influenza stock was found among 2021 influenza stock, prompted the Australian Government Department of Health (the Department) to investigate a range of circumstances that may have led to this, including checking data reported to AIR.

This investigation concluded that there was no 2020 stock in state and territory vaccine warehouses, however there were a high number of vaccines, with 2020 influenza batch numbers, reported to the AIR as being administered this influenza season (2021).

Further investigation has found that the issue is likely due to incorrect batch number information being reported to the AIR. The Department has been advised that some clinical information software stores and/or auto-fills previously entered information, which can lead to data entry errors when this old information is being used and not confirmed to be current, prior to submission.

Please find attached a fact sheet outlining the mandatory reporting obligations for vaccination providers, and helpful tips for reporting to the AIR.

We ask that you remind all staff to double check expiration dates of vaccines prior to administration, dispose of out of date stock appropriately and that you encourage all staff at your practice to double check the information being reported to the AIR is correct prior to submitting it to AIR.

Thank you for your continued support of the Program.

Regards,

Immunisation and Communicable Disease Branch