

Flu News Update

February 2023



Welcome to this Flu News Update, providing you with the latest information from the world of influenza as we get nearer to the start of the 2023 flu vaccination season.

2023 Stock Arriving into New Zealand

The first shipments of 2023 Afluria® Quad vaccine have already arrived into HCL. CSL Seqirus have a regular delivery schedule of vaccines arriving between now and the start of the season.

HCL plan to open for bookings from Monday 6th March, and the stock will be released from Monday 20th March. This will allow plenty of time for you to receive your vaccines before the official start to the 2023 flu vaccination season on 1st April.

For 2023 we will be sourcing all our Afluria Quad funded and unfunded vaccines from our production facility in Parkville, Melbourne. FLUAD® Quad will be coming from Holly Springs, US. Production is running to schedule.

Flu Vaccines for 2023

Seqirus will be providing the same vaccines in 2023 as for 2022

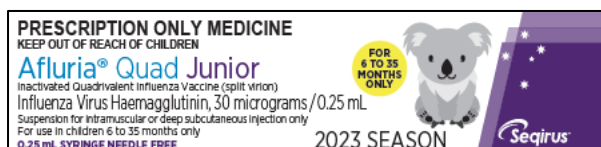
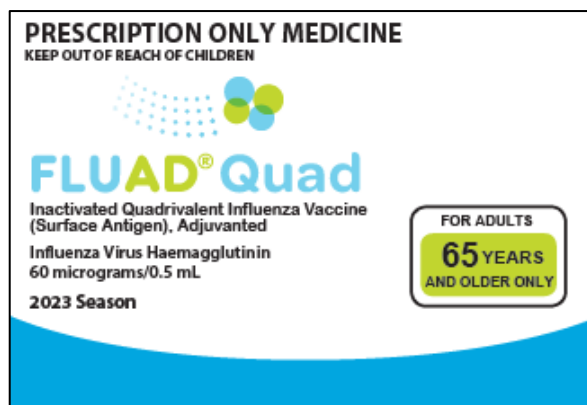
- Afluria Quad and Afluria Quad Junior are the two funded vaccines. They are also available for private market patients.
- FLUAD Quad is private market only for people aged 65 years and over.²

Description	Age	Doses per pack	Needle attached	Pharmacode	HCL Material Code	List Price per pack (ex GST)	Dimensions
Afluria Quad (Public and private)	3 years and over	10	No	2649292	1173541	\$110	125 x 104 x 47 mm
Afluria Quad Junior (Public and private)	6 – 35 mths	1	No	2649306	1173542	\$11	131 x 32 x 27 mm
FLUAD Quad (private)	65 years and over	10	No	2649314	1173543	\$200	154 x 130 x 23 mm

2023 Flu Vaccination Programme Timing

HCL have advised their website will be open for pre-orders from **Monday 6th March**, so you can put in your first order from then. There are recommended quantities to order based on the packaging configurations, and these details will be available on the HCL website where you place your order.

The minimum order quantity for initial orders remains at 60 doses. You can include all of the three vaccines above within your order.



FLUAD Quad for Private Market Patients

FLUAD Quad will once again be available for private market patients in 2023. It is an adjuvanted influenza vaccine specifically designed for people aged 65 years and over. The adjuvant added to the FLUAD Quad influenza vaccine enhances antibody responses.^{1,2}

In 2022 there was limited supply of FLUAD Quad and the demand was strong. We are bringing in more supplies for 2023 but **we recommend you include it in your first order to ensure you have stock at the start of the season.** We will once again be promoting this vaccine directly to patients, and many last year went to their practices and pharmacies asking for it.

Needles

For the 2023 season the influenza vaccines will be **needle free – you will need to purchase needles** from suppliers such as EBOS, Amtech or your pharmacy wholesaler.

Detailed below are the needles that will be available to order for the 2023 flu season:

Vaccine	Description	Pack Size	Supplier
Afluria Quad/Afluria Quad Junior	BD Needle 25g x 1"	100	Ebos
	Hypodermic Needle 25g x 5/8" (orange)*	100	Ebos
	Nipro Needle 25g x 1"	100	Amtech
FLUAD Quad	BD Needle 25g x 1	100	Ebos
	Nipro Needle 25g x 1"	100	Amtech

*The 25g x 5/8" needle was used for Afluria Quad when the needle was attached to the syringe. Refer to the Immunisation Handbook Table 2.8 for a guide on needle size for vaccines.

2023 Flu Season Training Modules

We have been collaborating with IMAC's vaccination co-ordinators and the Pharmaceutical Society to develop an online training module that will enable vaccinators to upskill and prepare for the flu season. These will be available on the Seqirus website fluadhcp.co.nz, and also the Pharmaceutical Society website, from mid-February 2023.

HCPs will be able to gain continuing education points for completing these modules and they have been designed to provide you with all the information and learning resources you need prior to the start of the season. We will email everyone on our database the link when they are ready to go.

We will also be having another one of our very successful on-line speaker meetings on 28th February with a great line-up of national and international speakers. Contact your Territory Manager for details or wait for another email nearer the time.

2023 Flu Season – Te Whatu Ora (Health New Zealand) - Encouraging high uptake

Te Whatu Ora are anticipating a strong uptake again this flu season, and CSL Seqirus have made sure there will be enough flu vaccine for every New Zealander that wants one. Around 1.65 million doses of flu vaccine were shipped out of HCL in 2022, and we are anticipating it will be even more this year.

Te Whatu Ora will once again be running a communication campaign to encourage the uptake of flu vaccine, particularly amongst patients groups eligible for the funded vaccine.

Vaccine strains for the 2023 Influenza Season

In case you missed it, the CSL Seqirus strains that will be used to match the WHO strains for the 2023 Southern Hemisphere season are below:

- the A/Sydney (H1N1) strain is a change from the 2022 strains³

H1N1	A/Sydney/5/2021 IVR-229-like virus
H3N2	A/Darwin/6/2021 IVR-227-like virus
B Vic	B/Austria/1359417/2021 BVR-26-like virus
B Yam	B/Phuket/3073/2013 BVR-1B-like virus

Future Communications

If you want to receive communications from CSL Seqirus before and during the flu season you need to make sure we have your email. If you didn't receive this email directly from CSL Seqirus then drop us a line at nzadmin@seqirus.com and we will add you to our database.

As always CSL Seqirus have a supportive national team of Territory Managers available to help you throughout the flu season. They also have a range of resources available such as brochures, posters, stickers and badges. If you have any questions or requests, please don't hesitate to contact them, they are happy to help:

Central/North/West Auckland and Northland:	Paul Kelly Ph 021 383 723
Central/East/South Auckland:	Praveen Nalam Ph 027 482 1305
Central North Island:	Brian Booth Ph 027 230 6011
South Island, Wellington and Pharmacy:	Simonne Findlater Ph 027 485 7812

Thanks. The CSL Seqirus team is looking forward to working with you again this flu season.

Kind Regards
Jill

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References:

1. Seqirus NZ. FLUAD® Quad Data Sheet. Seqirus (NZ) Ltd. December 2020. 2. Podda A. The adjuvanted influenza vaccines with novel adjuvants: experience with the MF59-adjuvanted vaccine. *Vaccine*. 2001;19(17-19):2673-2680. 3 WHO New recommendations for the composition of influenza vaccines in 2023 for the southern hemisphere, September 2022 Available from: <https://www.who.int/news/item/23-09-2022-new-recommendations-for-the-composition-of-influenza-vaccines-in-2023-for-the-southern-hemisphere>

AFLURIA® QUAD and AFLURIA® QUAD JUNIOR are funded Prescription Medicines – restrictions apply. AFLURIA® QUAD (for use in persons aged 3 years and older) and AFLURIA® QUAD JUNIOR (for use in children aged 6 months to 35 months inclusive) are inactivated split virion quadrivalent influenza vaccines, single dose pre-filled glass syringes containing 0.5 mL or 0.25 mL, respectively, of suspension for injection. Indicated for the prevention of influenza caused by the four A and B virus types contained in the vaccine. Each dose contains 15 mcg or 7.5 mcg, respectively, of surface haemagglutinin from the four influenza virus strains. **CONTRAINDICATIONS:** Infants younger than 6 months of age. Previous anaphylaxis following a dose of any influenza vaccine or anaphylaxis following exposure to any component of the vaccine, excluding egg protein. **PRECAUTIONS:** Postpone in patients with acute febrile illness. Manage any fever, febrile convulsions, or anaphylactic reactions; consider interactions with other vaccines, medications, or laboratory tests; history of anaphylaxis to egg, history of Guillain-Barré syndrome which has occurred within 6 weeks of previous influenza vaccination. Response may be lower in immunocompromised patients and people aged 65 years or older. **ADVERSE EFFECTS:** Common injection site reactions e.g. pain, swelling, and redness; AFLURIA® QUAD: headache, myalgia, malaise, nausea, chills, vomiting, and fever; AFLURIA® QUAD JUNIOR: irritability, diarrhoea and loss of appetite. **ADMINISTRATION:** Shake before administering via intramuscular or deep subcutaneous injection. **DOSAGE:** AFLURIA® QUAD: A single 0.5 mL dose; children 3 years to <9 years not previously vaccinated require two doses given at least four weeks apart. AFLURIA® QUAD JUNIOR: A single 0.25 mL dose; infants and children not previously vaccinated require two doses given at least four weeks apart. Before prescribing, review the AFLURIA® QUAD and AFLURIA® QUAD JUNIOR Data Sheet at www.seqirus.co.nz. AFLURIA® QUAD and AFLURIA® QUAD JUNIOR are registered trademarks of Seqirus UK Ltd. 10/21

FLUAD® QUAD is an unfunded Prescription Medicine. FLUAD® QUAD is an inactivated influenza vaccine, with an MF59® Adjuvant, as a suspension for injection in a single-dose prefilled glass syringe. **PRESENTATION:** Each 0.5 mL dose contains 15 mcg of surface haemagglutinin from four influenza virus strains. **INDICATIONS:** For active immunisation against influenza, for people 65 years of age and older. **CONTRAINDICATIONS:** Severe allergic reaction (e.g. anaphylaxis) to a previous influenza vaccination or to the active substances, adjuvant, or any other constituents or trace residues. Persons with a history of egg allergy (non-anaphylaxis) can receive a full dose of vaccine in any immunisation setting. **ADVERSE EVENTS: Common** injection site pain, fatigue and headache. Most of these reactions disappear within 3 days. **Rare** but serious events include thrombocytopenia; lymphadenopathy; muscular weakness; allergic reactions such as anaphylactic shock, anaphylaxis; encephalomyelitis, Guillain Barré syndrome, neuritis, neuralgia, paraesthesia, or convulsions; vasculitis with transient renal involvement; generalised skin reactions; and severe injection-site reactions (extensive limb swelling or cellulitis-like reactions). **PRECAUTIONS:** Postpone immunisation in patients with acute febrile illness or infection. Antibody responses may not be protective in all vaccines, particularly in immunosuppressed patients. FLUAD® Quad is not for intravascular or subcutaneous administration. Persons with a history of anaphylaxis to egg should be vaccinated only in medical facilities with staff experienced in recognising and treating anaphylaxis. Co-administration with other vaccines has not been studied. If Guillain-Barré syndrome has occurred within 6 weeks of previous influenza vaccination, the decision to give FLUAD® Quad should be based on careful consideration of the potential benefits and risks. **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION:** Gently shake before use to produce a milky-white suspension; inject a single 0.5 mL dose into the deltoid muscle. Store at 2–8°C; do not freeze; protect from light. Before prescribing, review the FLUAD® Quad Data Sheet at www.seqirus.co.nz. FLUAD® and FLUAD® Quad are registered trademarks of Seqirus UK Ltd. 10/21. NZ-FLU-23-0005 TAPS DA 2206ER