

CoViD Vaccine position statement on 'immediate use'

Below is a summary of the Specialist Pharmacy Service guidance on the immediate use of vaccine taken from the standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for both the Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines.

Statement

There is no agreed definition of 'immediate' administration.

We advise each clinical site leads to review their site processes and ensure that the vaccines are administered safely and effectively

Background

Both SOPs (AZ section 5.3.10. and Pfizer section 5.4.8.) state that, 'The newly filled syringe must be **used for immediate administration**'.

There have been a number for queries around the 'immediate' use of both the Pfizer-BioNTech and Oxford-Astra Zeneca vaccines once the dose has been drawn up into the syringe for administration.

Rationale

There is limited stability data available once the vaccine has been drawn up into a syringe and, as the vaccines have no preservative, there may be an increased risk of microbial contamination once the vaccine has been drawn up. There is also a theoretical risk that some of the active ingredient could be adsorbed onto the plastic of the syringe and this would lead to an inadequate dose of the vaccine.

Further advice on CoViD Vaccines is available at <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/home/covid-19-vaccines/>

26/01/2021 – Information correct at the date of publication

Referenced from:

<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/preparing-the-pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine-at-pcn-designated-sites/>

<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/preparing-the-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine-at-pcn-designated-sites-and-end-user-locations/>