

Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI)
70th meeting
21, 22 and 23 August 2019

ATAGI BULLETIN

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) 70th face-to-face meeting was held on 21, 22 and 23 August 2019 in Canberra.

New members

- ATAGI welcomed new members Ms Karen Bellamy, Professor Katie Flanagan, Dr Katherine Gibney, Professor Cheryl Jones, Associate Professor Tony Korman, Associate Professor Bette Liu, Associate Professor Tom Snelling; and new non-voting members Dr Louise Flood and Dr Robyn Gibbs.

Special risk groups

- ATAGI formed a working group to progress issues in regards to immunisation for people in special risk groups. This will further enable ATAGI to focus efforts on closing the gap in immunisation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. ATAGI looks forward to engaging with stakeholder groups on these issues.

Pneumococcal disease

- ATAGI was pleased to note that the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) had recommended funding under the National Immunisation Program (NIP) for a whole-of-life schedule for pneumococcal vaccination. ATAGI will work with the Department to develop communication materials for providers and consumers about the changes.
- The revised schedule is available on the [PBAC website](#).

Tuberculosis

- ATAGI noted that a BCG vaccine is now in supply in Australia, but continued to advocate for a vaccine being registered in Australia to cover the recommendations in the Australian Immunisation Handbook (the Handbook) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and children travelling to endemic areas.

Influenza

- ATAGI was pleased to note the recommendation from the PBAC to fund Vaxigrip Tetra (quadrivalent influenza vaccine) on the NIP for all children aged 6 months to less than 5 years.

Australian Immunisation Handbook

- ATAGI celebrated the first year of the digital Handbook, and looks forward to the outcomes of its evaluation. In August 2019, the Handbook had 88 000 users. ATAGI received an update on progress of a national whole-of-life catch-up calculator and

Handbook app. ATAGI continues to welcome feedback from Handbook users through the [Handbook website](#).

- ATAGI received training on GRADE (Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development and Evaluations) from Cochrane Australia and the Melbourne GRADE Centre. GRADE is a robust and transparent process for developing clinical guidelines, and will be used to underpin future recommendations in the Handbook.

Other ATAGI business

- Members heard presentations that gave an overview of processes from the Department of Health, National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS), Communicable Diseases Network Australia (CDNA), Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), and the PBAC.

Other issues in immunisation

- ATAGI noted a summary of recent deliberations and recommendations from key national immunisation technical advisory groups (NITAGs) of interest from the NCIRS.

Notes and resources

- ATAGI's membership, terms of reference and conflict of interest information are available on the [Department of Health website](#).
- The digital [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#) is available on the Department's website.
- The summary of decisions of key immunisation technical advisory groups of interest report will be available on the [NCIRS website](#).
- Information on NITAGs worldwide is available on the [NITAG Resource Centre website](#).
- Next ATAGI meeting: videoconference, 18 October 2019. The [meeting agenda](#) will be published on the Department of Health website shortly before the meeting.