

## **Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI)**

### **42nd Meeting**

**10 - 11 June 2010**

### **ATAGI BULLETIN**

- The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) 42<sup>nd</sup> face-to-face meeting was held on 10-11 June 2010 in Canberra.
- ATAGI members provided advice, based on the up-to-date evidence that the suspension of the use of all 2010 seasonal influenza vaccine in children under 5 years of age, should continue until further notice.
- ATAGI has published the following advice over the past 6 months relevant to the administration of pandemic influenza vaccine for pandemic H1N1:
  - Guideline for the administration of pandemic (H1N1) influenza vaccine from multi-dose vials (MDV).
  - Use of multi-dose vials in vaccination programs.
  - Advice regarding the use of influenza vaccines containing thiomersal (including pregnancy).
  - Influenza, influenza vaccines and Guillain-Barré Syndrome.
  - Use of latex-containing 1mL syringes from pandemic vaccination packs.
  - ATAGI advice: on the use of seasonal vaccine as second dose in children
  - Use of pandemic and seasonal influenza vaccines in children <10 years of age.
  - Protocol for the administration of pandemic (H1N1) influenza vaccine from multi-dose vials (MDV) for children aged  $\geq 6$  months to <3 years and for all people aged  $\geq 3$  years.
  - Report on the use of Influenza A (H1N1) 2009 monovalent Vaccine November 2009.

<http://www.healthemergency.gov.au/internet/healthemergency/publishing.nsf/Content/national-vaccination-program#atagi>
- ATAGI requested its Influenza Working Party to continue to conduct further work on the feasibility of implementing an influenza vaccination program for all Indigenous children aged 6 months to 59 months.
- ATAGI provided advice on the development of a National Immunisation Strategy.
- The ATAGI Handbook Development Working Party continues to work on revisions to the Handbook as new evidence on vaccines becomes available. This includes developing the 10<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Immunisation Handbook which is expected to be completed by early 2012.
- ATAGI will be undertaking consultation on the recommended changes to the chapters of the Immunisation Handbook referring to combined measles, mumps, rubella and varicella vaccines (MMRV). These changes refer to the PBAC recommendation that MMRV should be administered at 18 months of age.
- The ATAGI members reviewed evidence in relation to the pertussis epidemic and noted evidence that the pertussis vaccine remains highly effective. ATAGI will continue to

review evidence on the current immunisation schedule for children and the effectiveness of vaccines in adolescents and adults nationally. Clinical Guidance for parents and health care professionals on vaccination strategies for the prevention of pertussis infection is being developed.

- ATAGI discussed the epidemiology and ongoing surveillance requirements of *Haemophilus influenzae* type b and meningococcal disease.
- The next ATAGI meeting is scheduled for 14 – 15 October 2010 in Canberra.