



Australian Government



In-reach COVID-19 vaccination clinics for aged care workers by primary care providers

Information current as at 29 April 2021

Primary care vaccination providers may administer in-reach COVID-19 vaccination clinics for aged care workers aged 50 and over upon request from a residential aged care provider or Primary Health Network (PHN).

Primary care vaccination providers include:

- general practices
- Commonwealth Vaccination Clinics [General Practitioner led Respiratory Clinics (CVCs)] and,
- Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS).

The aim of these in-reach clinics is to provide an on-site vaccination opportunity for residential aged care staff who are aged 50 and over.

PHNs are assisting the Commonwealth with scheduling, reporting and planning of the vaccine roll-out within residential aged care facilities.

Both the facilities requesting in-reach clinics and the primary care provider willing to deliver the vaccination clinics must engage with the local PHN before and after any in-reach clinic to report:

- the planned date of in-reach vaccination clinic
- confirmation the clinic was delivered, and
- the number of staff vaccinated.

Who can provide in-reach vaccination clinics?

In-reach COVID-19 vaccination clinics can only be administered by primary care vaccination providers currently participating in the COVID-19 Vaccination Program, using the existing AstraZeneca dose allocation for their site. Dose allocations are currently being reviewed.

How will primary care vaccination providers be funded to deliver in-reach vaccination clinics?

Primary care vaccination providers can claim a per patient fee in line with existing funding arrangements (Medicare Benefits Schedule COVID-19 Vaccine Assessment items, or equivalent for CVCs). However, the COVID-19 vaccine suitability assessment items do not enable a claim of a flag-fall payment for a visit to a residential aged care facility.

The claiming general practitioner is responsible for meeting all requirements for claiming these items. No additional reimbursement is available through the Commonwealth and vaccination must be free for all individuals.

Delivery of in-reach COVID-19 vaccination clinics

In delivering in-reach vaccination clinics, primary care vaccination providers are responsible for ensuring:

- an **appropriate model of care** and clinical governance for vaccine delivery, that includes:
 - determining the patient's clinical suitability to receive the COVID-19 vaccine on this date, including identification of any precautions or contraindications, as well as vaccination history which should include checking the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR)
 - obtaining informed consent
 - appropriate post-vaccination observation periods, and
 - clinical escalation processes for any vaccine-related adverse events including reporting to the appropriate organisation (where required).
- ensuring all **reporting requirements** are met, such as uploading administration data into the AIR, and maintaining appropriate medical records per vaccination assessment/administration.
- maintenance of vaccine **cold-chain integrity** during transport and at the site of administration to ensure vaccine potency. *For information on AstraZeneca storage please refer to the [COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca Product Information](#) and [ATAGI clinical guidance on COVID-19 Vaccine in Australia 2021](#). Please also review the specific advice issued by ATAGI on [drawing up the AstraZeneca vaccine](#). Chapter 7 of the [Strive for 5 guidelines](#) has specific information on transport of vaccines for use in an in-reach clinic.*
- ensuring that the in-reach clinic set up has adequate **infrastructure for clinical safety** to be maintained. This includes consideration of the *relevant*¹ minimum

¹ Not all minimum requirements will be relevant for this type of in-reach clinic. Primary care vaccination providers should use their clinical experience and judgement in determining how to safely set up their in-reach clinic.

requirements outlined in the EOI document (such as maintaining patient privacy during assessment, adequate space for post-vaccination observation).

Vaccination providers should also:

- maximise the available doses to avoid wastage (i.e. plan to utilise all doses within a vial where possible)
- bring all required vaccine administration consumables and equipment as required
- plan for the individuals who receive the vaccination to have access to a second dose, and
- note all current advice for the administration of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, including the preference for Pfizer (Comirnaty) in individuals aged under 50 years.

Are in-reach primary care provider clinics the only channel for residential aged care workers to receive an AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine?

In-reach primary care vaccination clinics are one of a number of available access points for aged care staff aged 50 years and over to receive the AstraZeneca vaccine including:

- workers can make their own arrangements to access the vaccine at a primary care vaccination site or state clinic
- workers can go to a State or Territory run AstraZeneca vaccination clinic
- some residential aged care facilities may run on-site vaccination clinics for workers using their own staff or subcontractors, and
- the Commonwealth or State and Territory Government may run in-reach clinics for staff in regional and remote areas.

For more information on the national COVID-19 vaccine plan for residential aged care workers please refer to the factsheet, [How workers in residential aged care can get a COVID-19 vaccination.](#)