The Immunisation Advisory Centre

COVID-19 EDUCATION

VERSION 5

Screening and guidance form

Pre-vaccination screening for NUVAXOVID (Novavax): Adjuvanted recombinant COVID-19 vaccine

SCREENING QUESTIONS	RATIONALE FOR QUESTIONS AND ADVICE ON ACTIONS REQUIRED
Please tell me your full name and date of birth.	To check you have the correct patient records on the CIR. **Check 18 years or older. Also confirm they are here for Nuvaxovid vaccine.** Discuss specific risks and benefits. Written consent is only required for consumers receiving a dose of Nuvaxovid vaccine outside current Medsafe approval. Ensure that they are aware that Pfizer vaccine is vaccine of choice.
Are you feeling well today?	Postpone vaccine if: fever >38°C or acute systemic illness. Anyone who has had SARS-CoV-2 infection, is advised to wait 3 months before any dose of COVID vaccine, to ensure best response. Clinical discretion can be applied for those at risk of severe disease. For very frail or elderly with comorbid condition, ensure they are stable or as well as possible before vaccination and advise carer on need for post vaccination observation and hydration.
Have you had COVID disease?	Anyone who has had SARS-CoV-2 infection, is advised to wait 3 months before any dose of COVID vaccine, to ensure best response. Clinical discretion can be applied for those at risk of severe disease.
Is this your first COVID-19 vaccination?	If second vaccine, check days since first COVID-19 vaccine dose to ensure **a minimum** of **21 days**, or 28 day gap if given after a different COVID-19 vaccine. Day 0 is the vaccination day. Prescription will be required to give Nuvaxovid as 2nd dose if another COVID-19 vaccine was given first, but not if 2nd dose is of same vaccine. Currently not approved for 3rd primary doses - see back page. No minimum spacing.
Have you had a serious allergic reaction to anything including previous COVID-19 vaccine?	**Contraindication: A history of anaphylaxis to previous dose of Nuvaxovid vaccine or to any component of the vaccine**, including, Polysorbate 80, Adjuvant- Matrix M, Dibasic sodium phosphate heptahydrate, Monobasic sodium phosphate monohydrate. If concerned about any serious hypersensitivity reactions to previous dose of Nuvaxovid, discuss with IMAC on 0800 IMMUNE (466 863).
Do you have a bleeding problem or blood disorders?	Vaccines can be administered to people on anticoagulants. **For patients with haemophilia**, receiving clotting factor replacement or similar, vaccinations should be given as soon as possible after receiving the medicine. It is recommended that the platelet count is kept ≥30x10^9/L. Specialist advice is recommended. After vaccination, apply firm pressure over the injection site, without rubbing, for 10 minutes to reduce the risk of bruising.
Are you pregnant?	There are no safety concerns specific to Nuvaxovid in pregnancy and breastfeeding, however, there is currently insufficient data. While we await more data, Nuvaxovid is not recommended during pregnancy and while breastfeeding.
Immunosuppression due to disease or treatment	The antibody response to the vaccine may be reduced and protection may be suboptimal, but it is still likely to offer some protection particularly against severe disease and **there are no safety concerns**. Patients may have been advised on specific timing of vaccinations to fit into other treatment regimens. Where possible this should be accommodated.
Other vaccines in the last 7 days	The Nuvaxovid vaccine may be administered before, after, or at the same time as other national schedule vaccines. The only exceptions to this advice are for the live-attenuated shingles vaccine (Zostavax) with a 7-day interval, before or after administering the Nuvaxovid vaccine and at least a 3 day interval between Nuvaxovid and Shingrix or Fluad Quad.
Lymph clearance	If patients have had bilateral lymph clearance, vaccine can be given vastus lateralis, seek help if unsure.

OUR MESSAGE IS DON'T DELAY - IF IN DOUBT CALL 0800 IMMUNE (466 863)

Vaccine administration: Nuvaxovid specific guidance

Booster doses

Nuvaxovid is approved for first and second booster, for 18yrs and over. No prescription required, but must meet criteria for second booster.

3rd Primary doses

These are not approved. We recommend discussing with IMAC.

1. Discuss risks and benefits of the vaccine and ensure patient is aware that Pfizer is usually the vaccine of choice.
2. Complete pre-vaccination screening for Nuvaxovid and fill in written consent form if vaccine is being used off label ie mixed schedule or 3rd dose.
3. **Obtain prescription if given as a mixed schedule. Mixed schedules count as fully vaccinated.**
4. Use **Guidance for Nuvaxovid COVID-19 Vaccine Preparation** document when preparing the vaccine.
5. Provide the usual post COVID-19 vaccine advice plus guidance on the need to seek immediate medical attention if they develop any other symptoms.

Potential vaccine reactions

The most frequent adverse reactions were injection site tenderness (75%), injection site pain (62%), fatigue (53%), myalgia (51%), headache (50%), malaise (41%), arthralgia (24%) and nausea or vomiting (15%). Most adverse reactions were mild to moderate in severity and usually resolved within a few days of vaccination.

When compared with the first dose, adverse reactions after the second dose were more frequently reported. Adverse reactions were generally milder and reported less frequently in older adults (≥65 years old).

LYMPHADENOPATHY

Enlargement of lymph nodes near site of injection (eg, axillary, neck) is a known responses to vaccination. Anyone who is having a mammogram or CT scan should inform their radiologist that they have recently been vaccinated.

HYPERTENSION

During clinical trials, around 1 in 100 older adults reported an increase in blood pressure for around 3 days after vaccination.

MYOCARDITIS

Anyone with chest pain, breathing difficulty or heart palpitations/fluttering should seek medical attention if symptoms persist for more than a day after vaccination. Very rare cases of myocarditis were reported during clinical trials, although these have not been causally related to the vaccine itself.