

For immediate release

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CSL fully supports the ATAGI recommendations for use of influenza vaccine in children

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has released a statement of advice for immunisation providers regarding the administration of 2011 trivalent seasonal influenza vaccines.

The ATAGI recommendations for Fluvax® vaccine are consistent with the 2011 product information, which states that children under five years of age should not receive Fluvax® vaccine. In addition, ATAGI has recommended that children aged five to less than 10 years of age should receive an alternative influenza vaccine if available.

“CSL fully supports the ATAGI recommendations and continues to work closely with health authorities to mitigate the risk of further febrile events in children following the use of our seasonal influenza vaccine”, said Dr Alan Paul, Medical Director at CSL Biotherapies.

“In addition to ongoing post-marketing safety surveillance, CSL is collaborating with a number of paediatric research centres to undertake active surveillance of influenza vaccine use in 600 children aged five to 18 years”, said Dr Paul.

The ATAGI recommendations support the use of Fluvax® vaccine in people aged ten years and over. Ongoing monitoring of CSL’s influenza vaccine in both Southern and Northern Hemisphere countries has not identified any safety signals following its use in this age group.

“Safety is our highest priority at CSL and we continue to work diligently with regulators and global experts to resolve the cause of the increased reports of febrile events associated with our 2010 influenza vaccine”, said Dr Paul.

The results of these ongoing scientific investigations are anticipated in mid 2011 and will be communicated to immunisation providers.

Fluvax® vaccine is the only Australian made influenza vaccine, with a long history of helping protect Australians against influenza. Influenza can be a serious illness. It is estimated that up to 2500 Australians die of influenza-related illnesses each year.¹

¹ www.influenzaspecialistgroup.org.au/about-influenza/impact-of-influenza

For more information about the ATAGI recommendations,
<http://www.immunise.health.gov.au>

For more information about CSL Limited, visit www.csl.com.au

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