



Bewdley Medical Centre
Church Street Surgery
Hagley Surgery
Kidderminster Medical Centre
Stourport Medical Centre

WFHP Position Statement on Choice of Vaccine for Patients

R Williams

20/1/21

National Guidance ¹ suggests that patients should receive the Covid 19 vaccine that is most readily available and should not be offered a choice of vaccination brand.

As the restrictions around the Pfizer vaccine have been relaxed as of 31st December, the contraindications to the vaccine remain largely aligned so should be very few clinical reasons to recommend one vaccine over the other.

Reasons to avoid vaccination (both vaccines)

- Current acute severe febrile illness (postpone)
- Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients listed in Appendix 1 and 2
- A confirmed anaphylactic reaction to a previous dose of a COVID-19 vaccine
- A confirmed anaphylactic reaction to any components of the COVID-19 vaccine
- Individuals who are currently unwell and experiencing COVID-19 (postpone)
- Those who have had Covid 19 infection – should delay until 28 days and fully recovered (postpone)

Reason to use Astra Zeneca instead of Pfizer - Individuals with a history of immediate onset-anaphylaxis to **multiple classes of drugs** or an **unexplained anaphylaxis** should not be vaccinated with the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine. The AstraZeneca vaccine can be used as an alternative (if not otherwise contraindicated).

*Previously, the MHRA advised that people who had a history of anaphylaxis to vaccines, drugs or food should not receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination. However, **this advice changed on 31st December**. Such individuals can now have the vaccine, unless they are hypersensitive to vaccine itself or any of its ingredients, as outlined in the manufacturer's information.

Women who are pregnant or breastfeeding

There is no known risk associated with giving non-live vaccines during pregnancy. These vaccines cannot replicate, so they cannot cause infection in either the woman or the unborn child Administration of COVID-19 Vaccine in **pregnancy should only be considered when the potential benefits outweigh any potential risks** for the mother and fetus There is no known risk associated with giving non-live vaccines whilst breastfeeding. JCVI advises that breastfeeding women may be offered vaccination with the Pfizer-BioNTech or AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines Fertility Preliminary animal studies do not indicate direct or indirect harmful effects with respect to fertility.. In these circumstances, clinicians should discuss the risks and benefits of vaccination with the woman, who should be told about the absence of safety data for the vaccine in pregnancy.

Clinicians should not be recommending the Astra Zeneca Vaccine over the Pfizer vaccine unless they meet the criteria above

R Williams

On behalf of WFHP Board

Reference

1. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/priority-groups-for-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-advice-from-the-jcvi-30-december-2020/joint-committee-on-vaccination-and-immunisation-advice-on-priority-groups-for-covid-19-vaccination-30-december-2020>

Appendix 1

Excipients of Astra Zeneca Vaccine

- L-Histidine
- 9 L-Histidine hydrochloride monohydrate
- Magnesium chloride hexahydrate
- Polysorbate 80
- Ethanol
- Sucrose
- Sodium chloride
- Disodium edetate dihydrate
- Water for injections

Appendix 2

Excipients of Pfizer Vaccine

- ALC-0315 = (4-hydroxybutyl azanediyl)bis (hexane-6,1-diyl)bis(2-hexyldecanoate)
- ALC-0159 = 2-[(polyethylene glycol)-2000]-N,N-ditetradecylacetamide
- 1,2-Distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine
- cholesterol
- potassium chloride
- potassium dihydrogen phosphate
- sodium chloride
- disodium hydrogen phosphate dihydrate
- sucrose
- water for injections