

ATAGI recommendation for influenza vaccine in adults aged ≥ 65 years

Adjuvanted influenza vaccine is recommended in preference to standard dose influenza vaccine in adults aged ≥ 65 years.

Justification

- Compared with standard dose influenza vaccines, adjuvanted influenza vaccine probably provides greater protection against a range of influenza disease-related outcomes.
- The ATAGI panel considers that especially for critical outcomes such as ‘influenza-related hospital encounters’ (i.e. inpatient hospitalisation and emergency department visits), use of adjuvanted influenza vaccine probably results in a small reduction in these outcomes compared with standard dose influenza vaccine.
- Compared with standard dose influenza vaccine, adjuvanted influenza vaccine results in a small increase in local adverse events, but little to no difference in systemic adverse events, serious adverse events or adverse events of special interest.
- The body of evidence suggests that in comparison to standard dose influenza vaccine, the likely greater effectiveness of adjuvanted influenza vaccine outweighs the slightly higher frequency of non-serious local adverse events following immunisation.

Note: NCIRS is conducting GRADE in support of ATAGI and making pilot results available on the NCIRS website. Please read this document as a supplement to the [Australian Immunisation Handbook Influenza disease chapter](#) and the [ATAGI Annual Influenza Statement](#).