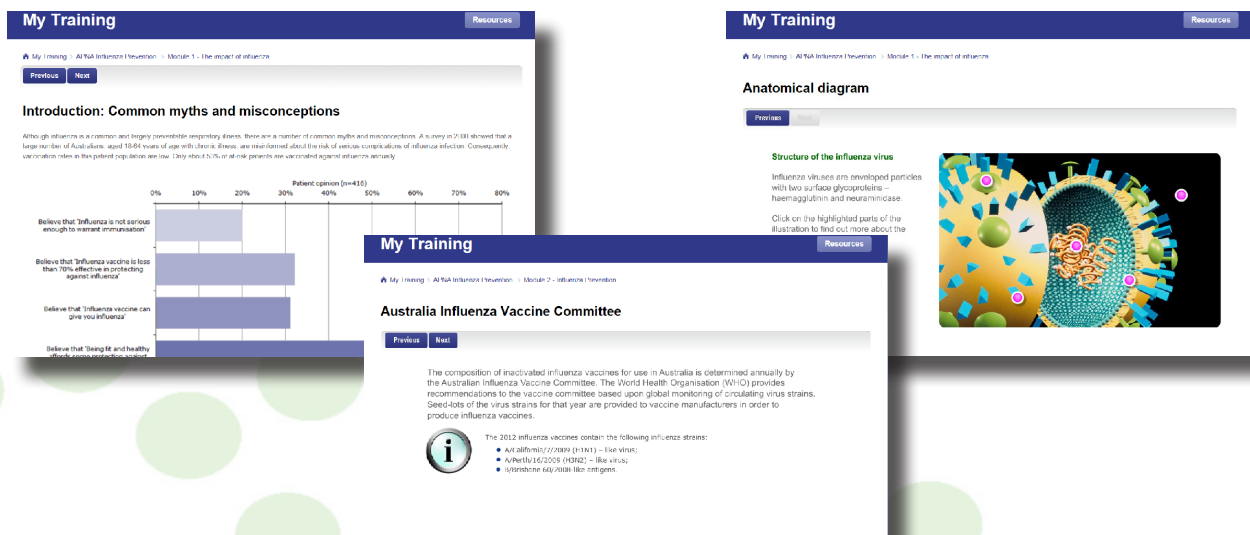


Influenza Prevention - 2012

Course Details

This interactive online learning course has been designed to provide GPs and nurses with concise, practice-based information to support the safe administration of influenza vaccines to individuals ≥ 6 months of age. By increasing vaccination rates, this program aims to reduce the burden of influenza in the community.

The information contained in this course is aligned with recommendations in the Australian Immunisation Handbook, 9th edition, 2008.



My Training Resources

My Training - All RPA Influenza Prevention - Module 1 - The impact of influenza

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Introduction: Common myths and misconceptions

Although influenza is a common and highly preventable respiratory illness, there are a number of common myths and misconceptions. A survey of 2,088 showed that a large number of Australian, aged 16-64 years of age with internet access, are misinformed about the risk of serious complications of influenza infection. Consequently, vaccination rates in the general population are low. Only about 1.1% of all adult parents use over-the-counter medication annually.

Patient opinion (n=415)

Statement	Percentage
Believe that influenza is not serious enough to warrant immunisation	~15%
Believe that influenza vaccine is less than 70% effective in protecting against influenza	~35%
Believe that influenza vaccine can give you influenza	~10%
Believe that being fit and healthy reduces your susceptibility to it	~10%

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Australia Influenza Vaccine Committee

The composition of inactivated influenza vaccines for use in Australia is determined annually by the Australian Influenza Vaccine Committee. The World Health Organisation (WHO) provides recommendations to the vaccine committee based upon global monitoring of circulating virus strains. Seed-lots of the virus strains for that year are provided to vaccine manufacturers in order to produce influenza vaccines.

The 2012 influenza vaccines contain the following influenza strains:

- A/320/09/2009 (H1N1) - like virus
- A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2) - like virus
- Influenza A(V)2009 like antigens

My Training Resources

My Training - All RPA Influenza Prevention - Module 1 - The impact of influenza

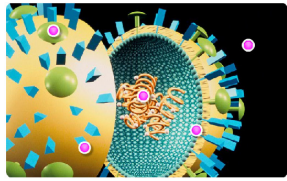
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Anatomical diagram

Structure of the influenza virus

Influenza viruses are enveloped particles with two surface glycoproteins - haemagglutinin and neuraminidase.

Click on the highlighted parts of the illustration to find out more about the



Learning Objectives

By the completion of the course participants will be able to:

- Explain the risks and complications of influenza, and address any patient misconceptions or myths
- Explain 'The Australian Immunisation Handbook' recommendations for influenza vaccination
- Implement practice systems and strategies to increase influenza vaccine coverage rates in individuals (≥ 6 months)
- Safely administer influenza vaccines, either by intramuscular or deep subcutaneous injection, or alternatively using the intradermal flu vaccine
- Improve clinical practice and safety to reduce the risk of needlestick injuries
- Counsel patients regarding potential adverse effects of vaccination.

APNA online learning

Course Content

Module 1: The impact of influenza

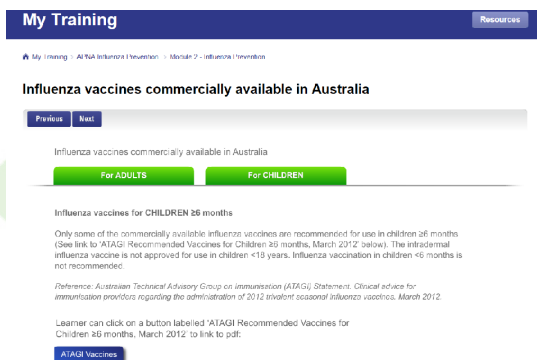
This module addresses the physiology, epidemiology, clinical features, and complications of influenza, and the resultant economic burden this illness places on society.

Module 2: Influenza vaccination

This module reviews the principles of vaccination - the single most important measure to prevent or reduce the burden of influenza infection.

Module 3: Vaccine administration technique and safety

This module examines influenza vaccine administration techniques including intramuscular and subcutaneous injections, as well as how to administer the intradermal flu vaccine. Contraindications, precautions and safety of influenza vaccines are discussed, together with tips for minimising needlestick injuries.



My Training Resources

My Training > APNA Influenza Vaccination > Module 2 - Influenza Vaccination

Influenza vaccines commercially available in Australia

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Influenza vaccines commercially available in Australia

For ADULTS **For CHILDREN**

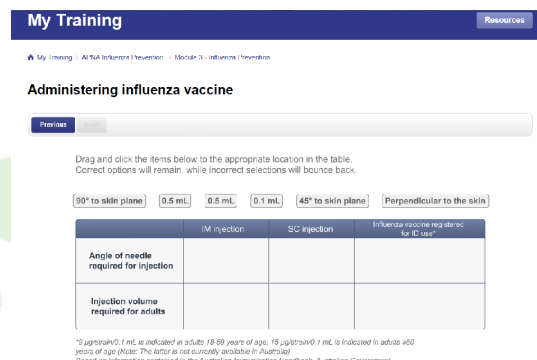
Influenza vaccines for CHILDREN 26 months

Only some of the commercially available influenza vaccines are recommended for use in children 26 months. (See link to ATAGI Recommended Vaccines for Children 20 months, March 2012 below). The intradermal influenza vaccine is not approved for use in children <19 years. Influenza vaccination in children <6 months is not recommended.

Reference: Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) Statement: Clinical advice for immunisation providers regarding the administration of 2012 trivalent seasonal influenza vaccines, March 2012.

Learner can click on a button labelled 'ATAGI Recommended Vaccines for Children 26 months, March 2012' to link to pdf.

ATAGI Vaccines



My Training Resources

My Training > APNA Influenza Vaccination > Module 3 - Influenza Vaccination

Administering influenza vaccine

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Drag and click the items below to the appropriate location in the table. Correct options will remain, while incorrect selections will bounce back.

90° to skin plane 0.5 mL 0.5 mL 0.1 mL 45° to skin plane Perpendicular to the skin

	IM injection	SC injection	Intradermal vaccine (indicated for ID use)*
Angle of needle required for injection			
Injection volume required for adults			

* 0.1 mL is indicated in adults 18-65 years of age; 0.5 µg/0.1 mL is indicated in adults ≥60 years of age (Note: The latter is not currently available in Australia)

Source: Information provided to the Australian Immunisation Register, Australian Government

Estimated Duration

1.5 CPD hour

Nb: APNA provides a guide for the number of CPD hours an educational activity should take. Nurses should keep a record of the actual time taken to complete professional development activities.

Target Audience

This course is ideally suited to general practitioners and primary health care nurses wishing to update their immunisation knowledge in preparation for the next influenza season.



This activity has been endorsed by APNA, according to approved criteria.