

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Inquiry into Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

26 April 2021

PDR Number: IQ21-000080

Links to publicly available Commonwealth materials on COVID-19 vaccines

Spoken

Hansard Page number: 10

Senator: Rex Patrick

Question:

Senator PATRICK: Just in relation to that: where do you get your input advice, and where is this advice contained in a detailed form so that it can be digested in a simple form by members of the public, but perhaps more relevantly in a technical form by people directly responsible for the health care of their own patients—that is, doctors and medical professionals. Where do they get access to that advice?

Prof. Cheng: There are a range of Commonwealth materials; I'm sure the Commonwealth can provide the links to you. There are guides that are aimed at consumers and at providers, and they cover both that question of risk and of benefit. They cover how the decision might be made for an individual, recognising that these are averages we are dealing with and that individuals have their own circumstances and concerns and so on that they bring forward. For people who get vaccinated, there is advice to providers and to patients about what to look out for, what the risks are of that and what they should do if they have a complication.

Answer:

Information is updated regularly on the Department of Health's COVID-19 vaccine-specific website at: www.health.gov.au/covid19-vaccines

The national COVID-19 vaccine campaign and relevant resources can be found at: [campaign resources](#)

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) also provides both clinical advice for vaccination providers, as well as information for patients relating to COVID-19 vaccines:

Resources for patients

How to prepare for your COVID-19 vaccination

- [Eligibility declaration form for COVID-19 vaccination](#)
- [Consent form for COVID-19 vaccination](#)
- [preparing for COVID-19 vaccination](#)
- [after your COVID-19 vaccination.](#)

Patient resources for Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, COMIRNATY:

- [Information on Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, COMIRNATY](#)
- [After your Pfizer \(COMIRNATY\) vaccine](#)

Patient resources for AstraZeneca vaccine:

- [Information on COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine](#)
- [After your AstraZeneca vaccine](#)

Resources for providers

ATAGI clinical advice

- [COVID-19 vaccines and flu vaccination](#)
- [ATAGI clinical guidance on COVID-19 vaccine in Australia in 2021](#)
- [ATAGI COVID-19 vaccination decision aid for women who are pregnant, breastfeeding, or planning pregnancy](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination decision guide for frail older people, including those in residential aged care facilities](#)
- [Statement for health care providers on suitability of COVID-19 vaccination in people with history of clotting disorders](#)
- [ATAGI – COVID-19 vaccination decision guide for people with immunocompromise](#)
- [ATAGI – COVID-19 provider guide for patients with immunocompromise](#)

Resources for people with disability

Auslan:

- [COVID-19 vaccination – Live action montage 30 seconds – Auslan](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination – Australia’s COVID-19 vaccines – Auslan](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination – How vaccines work – Auslan](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination – Vaccine development time – Auslan](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination – TGA approval process – Auslan](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination – Priority rollout animation – Auslan](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination – Stay informed – Auslan](#)

Easy Read:

- [COVID-19 vaccination – COVID-19 vaccine overview – Easy Read](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination – What is it? Is it safe? – Easy Read](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination – Who will get the vaccine? – Easy Read](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination – Where can you get the vaccine? – Easy Read](#)

- [COVID-19 vaccination – The AstraZeneca vaccine – Easy Read](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination – The Pfizer vaccine – Easy Read](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination – Getting ready for the vaccination – Easy Read](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination – What to expect when you have your vaccination – Easy Read](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination – Giving your consent – Easy Read](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination – After your vaccination – Easy Read](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination – Other information – Easy Read](#)

Specifically, ATAGI has also prepared information sheets on:

- the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine and thrombosis with thrombocytopenia, for patients: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/patient-information-sheet-on-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine-and-thrombosis-with-thrombocytopenia-syndrome-tts>
- the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine and thrombosis with thrombocytopenia, for providers: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/covid-19-vaccination-information-for-immunisation-providers-on-thrombosis-with-thrombocytopenia-syndrome-tts-following-covid-19-vaccination>
- a risk/benefit document to help patients make informed decisions. The document provides guidance on weighing up the potential benefits against the risk of harm from the COVID-19 vaccine AstraZeneca: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/weighing-up-the-potential-benefits-against-risk-of-harm-from-covid-19-vaccine-astrazeneca>
- an immunisation provider guide to obtaining informed consent for COVID-19 vaccination: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/covid-19-vaccination-atagi-immunisation-provider-guide-to-obtaining-informed-consent-for-covid-19-vaccine>

The Department is continuously reviewing and updating this information and resources based on the latest medical advice. People are encouraged to continue to visit the website for updated information.

In addition, the Department issues a weekly subscription based newsletter that provides key updates to web content throughout the week.