Clinician Referral Guide to the Victorian Specialist Immunisation Services (VicSIS)

The purpose of this document is to provide clinicians and vaccine providers with additional information for when it is appropriate to refer patients into VicSIS vs when patients can receive their vaccines in clinic. Useful links are included below, and we encourage all vaccine providers to be familiar with the latest information.

Does the patient meet any of the referral criteria listed on the VicSIS webpage?

Please note patients who experience a significant adverse event following immunisation (AEFI) following a dose of a COVID-19 vaccine should be referred to a VicSIS clinic for further assessment.
A report of this AEFI should first be made to SAEFVIC - see overleaf for more information.

Yes → **Refer patient to** The Victorian Specialist Immunisation Services (VicSIS) via the online E-referral portal

No

Patients with a cardiac history

- Prior myocarditis, pericarditis or endocarditis (i.e. > 3 months prior to vaccination)
- Coronary artery disease
- Myocardial infarction
- Stable heart failure
- Arrhythmias
- Prior history of rheumatic heart disease
- Kawasaki disease
- Congenital heart disease
- Cardiomyopathy
- Cardiac transplant
- People with implantable cardiac devices.

Please see the current ATAGI Guidance on Myocarditis and Pericarditis after mRNA COVID-19 vaccines

Patients with Allergy

- Previous history of anaphylaxis to other vaccines or multiple drugs including anaphylaxis to food, venom, or latex
- Previous history of anaphylaxis to other vaccines or multiple drugs
- Allergic conditions including asthma, atopic dermatitis (eczema), or allergic rhinitis (hay fever)

Follow the current ASCIA advice https://www.allergy.org.au/hp/papers/guide-allergy-and-covid-19-vaccination

Patients with Haematology conditions

- History of venous thromboembolism in typical sites (DVT or pulmonary embolism)
- Predisposition to form blood clots (e.g. Factor V Leiden) or other non-immune thrombophilic disorders
- Family history of clots or clotting conditions
- Receiving anticoagulant medications
- History of ischaemic heart disease or cerebrovascular accident
- Current or past history of thrombocytopenia* including idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP)

Please see the recent ATAGI and THANZ statement on TTS and the COVID-19 vaccine AstraZeneca and the Primary care approach TTS

Patients with other chronic medical conditions e.g.

- Significantly immunocompromised (e.g. on chemotherapy, DMARDs, post bone marrow transplant)
- On anticoagulants with INR>3
- Previous multiple sclerosis/Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS)

Please see recent advice on Immunocompromise and MVEC resources - FAQs

Are you concerned your patient requires a mixed vaccine schedule?

Follow current ATAGI advice on mixed schedules

Proceed to routine vaccination at GP clinic or vaccine hub

*if platelets <20, reduce risk of haematoma at injection site with pressure/cool compress

Other helpful resources

- Advice on vaccination after COVID-19 disease
- Primary Care Approach to TTS after AZ
- COVID-19 vaccination decision guide for women who are pregnant, breastfeeding or planning pregnancy
- MVEC resources.
- COVID-19 vaccination – ATAGI clinical guidance on COVID-19 vaccine in Australia in 2021 | Australian Government Department of Health
- **Clinicians may contact the Coronavirus hotline on 1800 020 080 (option 4).**

Reporting adverse events following immunisation (AEFIs)

Clinics using CVMS

- Record all medically attended AEFI in CVMS as an adverse event report –
  a) Report will automatically be forwarded to SAEFVIC
  b) Medically attended events are defined as a visit to general practitioner, emergency department, or hospital admission
- If the adverse event is serious, IMMEDIATE notification is also required – see red box (right)

Clinics not using CVMS

- All medically attended AEFI to be reported to SAEFVIC via online reporting at www.saefvic.org.au or by using the QR code
  a) Medically attended events are defined as a visit to general practitioner, emergency department, or hospital admission
  b) If the adverse event is serious, IMMEDIATE notification is also required – see red box (right)

Serious or unexpected AEFI

Serious or unexpected AEFI require urgent direct notification in addition to routine reporting via CVMS or online SAEFVIC form.

Serious adverse events requiring urgent reporting

AEFI that result in:

- Transfer to hospital care
- CPR
- Defibrillator use
- Life-threatening incidents
- Death

Vaccine administration errors

1. **Manage the AEFI by usual clinical pathways**
2. **Immediately notify via phone:**

   → Business hours (Mon – Fri, 9AM – 5PM)
   Call SAEFVIC **1300 882 924** (Option 1)

   → Out of Hours
   Call Victorian Vaccine Control Centre (VVCC)
   1800 675 398 (Options 3-1-2)

3. **Submit an AEFI report online to SAEFVIC**