

The Covid-19 vaccination programme; Risk management issues

As the Covid-19 vaccination programme rolls out, and more venues and models of delivery come on stream, the PDA (The Pharmacists' Defence Association) receives reports of incidents and occurrences from pharmacists working at the frontline. This enables a risk management exercise to be developed.

By sharing the experiences and lessons of those providing pharmaceutical oversight of the vaccination service or operating as Covid-19 vaccinators, it is possible to improve the safety of patients. In this poster designed to be displayed in the vaccination venues, the PDA shares these lessons with all those healthcare professionals involved in the vaccination process.

Lessons from the experience of Pharmacists working within the Covid-19 vaccination programme:

- 1** Before vaccinating, ensure that all team members are familiar with the relevant regulatory requirements and operating procedures.
- 2** Ensure that teams involved in the stock management, preparation and administration of the vaccine are working with only one type of vaccine per session and use visual reminders of dose, diluent, etc (we have provided stickers to assist with this).
- 3** If administration of multiple types of vaccines in the same session cannot be avoided, make sure that there is clear physical demarcation and that each vaccine area/pod, stock and equipment is clearly labelled and separated. This can help to alert the team and patients to the possibility of parallel processes becoming overlapped. (We have provided stickers to assist with this).
- 4** Ensure that batches of vaccine stock are used sequentially.
- 5** Where vaccine stock is required for outreach vaccinations, vaccine vial and equipment orders should be prepared in advance and collected at the start of the session / clinic to avoid distraction.
- 6** Always tell the patient verbally which type of vaccine you are administering before you vaccinate, verbally confirm whether it is their first or second vaccination and if their second, check that it is the same type as the first.
- 7** Check that patients are issued with the necessary paperwork after the vaccination is given.

The PDA has produced stickers to act as a visual reminder when working in a setting where Covid-19 vaccinations are taking place. This could be used on doors, on boxes, on specific vaccination tables or even on the sleeves of vaccinators to reduce the risk of avoidable mistakes.

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