

PRACTICE BRIEF

COVID-19 Vaccination Reminder Program for Adults aged 75 years and older

Vaccination remains the most important way to protect those at risk of serious COVID-19 disease.¹

The risk of serious illness from COVID-19 increases with age. Current ATAGI advice recommends a dose of COVID-19 vaccines for adults ≥ 75 years every 6 months.^{1,2}

The aim of this program is to remind patients who are at high risk of severe COVID-19 disease due to their age, as vaccination still remains the best way to protect them from hospitalisation or death from COVID-19.

Background

ATAGI updated their COVID-19 guidelines on 29 February 2024 to include XBB.1.5-containing vaccines as the preferred vaccines over other COVID-19 vaccines for both primary and additional vaccinations.¹

2024 ATAGI Recommendations^{1,2}

	Primary dose	Additional doses	
		With severe immunocompromise	Without severe immunocompromise
≥ 75 years		Recommended every 6 months	
65–74 years	✓*	Recommended every 12 months and can consider a dose every 6 months	
18–64 years		Recommended every 12 months and can consider a dose every 6 months	Can consider a dose every 12 months
5–17 years	✓†	Can consider every 12 months	Not recommended
6 months–<5 years		Not recommended	

PRACTICE BRIEF

*Dosing varies for patients with / without severe immunocompromise ²

†Primary-course vaccination is recommended for children aged 6 months - <17 years with medical conditions that may increase their risk of severe disease or death from COVID-19²

This patient recall program will enable General Practices to conduct an SMS recall of patients who are eligible for a free COVID-19 vaccination, funded by the Australian Government.

How are patients identified?

The recall program is deployed via GoShare which allows an authorised practice staff member to send a recall message to patients aged 75 years and over, whose last COVID-19 vaccination was ≥ 6 months ago.

The program can be activated within 24 hours, with a simple, secure software download. You will be allocated SMS credits and a practice staff member will be guided through the steps to create the patient list to send the recall SMS bundle out to eligible patients. It only takes 15 minutes of a practice staff member's time to complete the activity.

What do patients receive?

Patients receive a personalised SMS from your practice asking them to make an appointment with their doctor to discuss their eligibility for a COVID-19 vaccination.

The SMS contains:

- The practice name and contact number;
- A link to information to help the patient understand what why their age puts them at an increased risk of serious illness from COVID-19.

More information

If you have any queries about recall activities, please do not hesitate to contact Healthily on 03 9534 7222 or goshare@healthily.com.au

References: 1. Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI). Clinical Advice: Statement on the Administration of COVID-19 Vaccines in 2024, 29 February 2024. Available at: [ATAGI statement on the administration of COVID-19 vaccines in 2024 \(health.gov.au\)](https://www.health.gov.au/healthcare/news/2024/02/29/atagi-statement-on-the-administration-of-covid-19-vaccines-in-2024) Accessed May 2024. 2. Australian Government. Department of Health and Aged Care. Australian immunisation handbook. COVID-19. Available at: <https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/contents/vaccine-preventable-diseases/covid-19#recommendations> . Accessed May 2024.

PP-CMR-AUS-0339, 05/24