

# Preparation of AstraZeneca

## (Quick reference guide)

Preparation and administration of this vaccine should only be carried out by fully authorised, provisionally authorised, or Pharmacist Vaccinators (not COVID-19 Vaccinators working under supervision) that have completed IMAC's AstraZeneca vaccine training.

**Each multi-dose vial contains 10 doses of 0.5mL.**

## VACCINE DOES NOT REQUIRE DILUTION

### 1. PREPARE WORK AREA:

- Clear workspace, clean/sanitise surfaces and equipment.
- Perform hand hygiene.

### Ensure you have the appropriate equipment/supplies to hand:

- 1mL syringes with integrated 23G x 25mm needle, or 1mL syringe plus 38mm needle
- Sterile single use alcohol swabs, hand gel, indelible pen, vaccine preparation directions, labels, wipeable container for drawn-up vaccines, vaccine log sheet and Sharps bin



### 2. REMOVE VIAL OF VACCINE FROM THE FRIDGE:

- Check **RIGHT** vaccine, check expiry date and time, and number the vial.
- Obtain a second check of above details.
- If details confirmed are correct, both people must sign/initial the vaccine log for this numbered vial.
- Protect vial from light where possible.

### Visually inspect the vial:

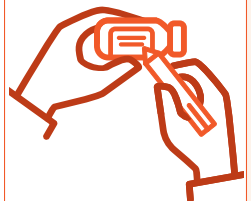
- The vaccine is a colourless to slightly brown, clear to slightly opaque solution.
- Discard if particulate matter, discolouration, or differences in the described appearance are observed.
- **DO NOT SHAKE THE VIAL**



### 3. CONFIRM EXPIRY DATE AND TIME:

**Contents of vial must be used within 48 hours, from time of opening for first dose if stored at 2°C-8°C**

- Write the **USE BY** date and time, on the vial, which is **48 hours** after the cap is removed from vial. **Opened vial must be returned to fridge.**
- Vaccines should be prepared as close to administration as possible, ideally as needed.
- If several vaccines are needed, there is an option to draw up several doses from vial, but they must be used within **5 hours** and can be stored either in the fridge or at room temp, max 30°C.



## Preparation of AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine

### 4. PREPARING THE VACCINE: DO NOT DILUTE OR SHAKE

- When first accessed, remove red plastic cap guard on top of vaccine vial using aseptic technique.
- Cleanse vaccine vial stopper using alcohol wipe and allow to dry.
- Prepare syringes and needles using standard infection control techniques.
- Using aseptic technique, draw up **0.5mL** of air into syringe.
- Puncture bung of vial, equalising pressure by injecting air into vial.
- Invert vial and draw up **0.5mL** vaccine into syringe.
- Adjust to remove air bubbles while still in the vial.
- Remove needle from vial and replace needle guard with care.
- Visually inspect volume (**0.5mL**), check for particulates, discolouration and leaks. Discard if they are observed.
- Obtain second check of volume and visual inspection.
- Fill in label and apply to syringe.

**If vaccine is not going to be administered immediately, you need to list expiry as 5 hours from preparation or 48 hours from vial opening, whichever is the soonest.**

- Document on vaccine log.
- **Return vial to fridge immediately.**
- Administer vaccine via IM injection.

**Repeat full process as needed for each subsequent dose.**

- Vaccine does **NOT** need to be at room temperature prior to administration.
- It is normal for liquid to remain in the vial after withdrawing the final dose. Discard leftover vaccine as per protocol.

**ALL DOSES MUST BE ADMINISTERED WITHIN 48 HOURS OF THE CAP BEING REMOVED FROM THE VIAL, WHEN STORED AT 2°C-8°C.**

**Expired vaccine must be disposed of as per operation guidance.**

