

## AREPANRIX™ H1N1 Fit To Immunize Assessment

The immunizer will address fit to immunize by assessing:

- **Are you well today?**
  - Rationale: Minor acute illness with or without fever would not be a contraindication.
- **Do you have any known allergies?**
  - Rationale: Known anaphylactic hypersensitivity to eggs/formaldehyde/thimerosal manifested by hives, swelling of mouth and throat, difficulty breathing, hypotension and shock would be a contraindication.
- **Have you had a previous severe reaction to a previous dose of seasonal influenza?**
  - Rationale: To determine if there is any contraindication to administration of vaccine.
- **Do you have a chronic health condition or have a health condition that requires you to visit a doctor or take medication regularly?**
  - Rationale: this is to determine the vaccine reason code.
- **Are you pregnant or considering becoming pregnant in the next month?**
  - Rationale: This is to determine whether the adjuvanted versus unadjuvanted vaccine is offered.

**Note: Thimerosal does not need to be discussed specifically with clients unless the client has specific questions about this component.**

- Rationale: As stated in the Canadian Immunization Guide 7<sup>th</sup> ed. 2006 page 5 “In recent years there has been a great deal of opposition to the use of Thimerosal, an ethyl mercury derivative, because of a theoretical risk of brain damage. Scientific evidence has refuted this risk, and it is no longer necessary for health care providers to raise this as a concern for administering influenza or hepatitis B vaccine which may contain Thimerosal.”

### Informed Consent

Clients must give informed consent before immunization. A written consent is not required for clients presenting voluntarily at advertised influenza immunization venues. Competent clients who are provided with vaccine information (either written format or verbally), have the time to review the information, who then voluntarily present themselves to the immunizer and are given the opportunity to ask questions, are providing their implied consent to immunization. The immunizer must confirm that the person wants to be immunized with the specific vaccine(s). Before immunizing, the nurse needs to:

1. Provide Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Influenza vaccine information sheet to client
  2. Review:
    - Disease being prevented
    - Vaccine being offered and how the vaccine will be given
    - Risks and benefits of vaccine and disease
    - Side effects of vaccine and disease
    - Aftercare (ensure that they know how to access Health Link Alberta)
    - Address and provide rationale for 15 minute wait post immunization
  3. Provide opportunity to ask questions
  4. Affirm consent
  5. Check informed consent box on Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza immunization record.
- After immunization provide the client with the client copy of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Influenza immunization record (NCR) which includes aftercare information.

## **Example for Obtaining Informed Consent for pH1N1 Vaccine:**

1. Name the recommended vaccine, Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Influenza Vaccine and how it is administered; i.e. one injection into the muscle in the arm or if a child the leg.
2. Acknowledge that the client received the information when they entered the clinic:  
“Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Influenza information sheet”
3. Review disease information and associated risks based on client’s current knowledge and understanding. Information is to be discussed at the client’s level of understanding:
  - Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza virus – is a respiratory illness that affects the nose, throat and lungs. This is a new and emerging strain of influenza that is different from the commonly circulating influenza strains. Humans have little to no natural immunity to this virus so it can spread quickly and easily from person to person.
4. Review expected and rare reactions to vaccine:
  - Expected or common side effects: headache, tiredness, pain, redness, a hard lump at the injection site: joint pain, warmth, itching or bruising at the injections site; increased sweating/shivering, flu like symptoms: swollen glands in the neck, armpit or groin. Should resolve in 1-2 days
  - As with any immunization, unexpected or unusual side effects can occur such as severe allergic or anaphylactic reactions to vaccine or components of vaccine. This usually happens within 15 minutes of having a vaccine and is extremely rare.
  - Another serious illness called Guillain-Barré Syndrome (a severe paralytic illness also called GBS) has occurred rarely after the administration of seasonal influenza or following viral infections.
5. Review after care measures:
  - Apply an ice pack or a cool moist cloth where the needle was given to reduce the pain and swelling.
  - Take a medication such as acetaminophen (e.g. Tylenol™) to reduce the pain or if a fever develops. Aspirin® (ASA) is not recommended for children.
  - Report any unusual reactions described above to Health Link Alberta.
6. Do you have any questions?
7. Is it okay to go ahead with the immunization?