On-Vacc

**Budget Plus Pharmacy Group, and Corey from the Department of Health. Budget Plus Regional Manager - Shakira Rahman**

Thank you for coming on board to help us build On-Vacc. A little bit about us. We are a growing pharmacy group with 20 outlets in Victoria, including two located within regional hospitals. We are so excited to be partnering with the Federal government to implement Phase 2A of the national COVID-19 vaccine rollout strategy. The On-Vacc project is an initiative that we are bringing to the table to make sure that our participation does not just meet the legislative requirements and health directive. We want our roll-out of this program to run smoothly and propel our group to be among the top in Australia!

On-Vacc will replace our current vaccination recording software - with the added features that will fully support Phase 2A. It will allow patients to complete the newly released vaccination consent form electronically, as well as other functions including that for vaccine storage and handling.

**Budget Plus Senior Software Engineer - George Alwyn**

For today’s meeting let’s start by discussing how we will handle the Comirnaty (more commonly known as the ‘Pfizer’) vaccine administration in our pharmacy stores. I know you are thinking administration means paperwork, but it’s the term we use for administering (injecting) the vaccine to patients by trained and accredited pharmacists. Don’t worry for the time being how the patients will be selected or notified or booked in to be vaccinated - that is part of the current discussion with the Department of Health...From the patient point of view, the vaccination appointment begins with the administrator giving them an iPad (or Android equivalent) and they complete the electronic form to give the Government-required ‘valid consent’. If they are a returning patient, especially for the second course of the vaccine, then their On-Vacc ID should retrieve their previously completed personal details. When the form is completed and submitted, the Vaccine Administrator will review the details and log into the staff mode of On-Vacc to confirm the vaccination go-ahead and scan a barcode on the syringe which would be prepared by the Vaccine Preparer. Shakira will give more details about those functions. For now, the successful scan will prefill dose information on page 4 for the consent form. The first field should default to the current day, and the second field ‘Time received’ should be left blank for the vaccine administrator to complete after the vaccination. Yes, the patient will sign with a stylus just like you do for Australia Post... There are two sets of patient input on pages 2 and 3 of the sample forms that will trigger a message to the patient that their vaccination will not proceed. They won’t be able to submit the form, but they can change their input (if it was inputted in error) or exit the form. These kinds of incomplete forms will be saved in our records. These triggers are all the Yes checkboxes on page two (except for Question 4 and 11), and failure to tick any of the three tick boxes on page 3 under ‘Consent to receive COVID-19 vaccine’. Question 4 and 11 relate to whether the patient has had COVID-19 and whether they had previously received COVID-19 vaccination. We want to enhance the form by secondary questions for Question 4 (When were you cleared for COVID-19) and Question 11 (When was your last COVID-19 vaccination). If the patient was cleared for COVID-19 more than 6 months ago, and their last COVID-19 test was the first course of the Comirnaty vaccine 21 days or more prior, then the vaccination may still proceed.

After the vaccination, the Vaccine Administrator will navigate to the ‘Provider use’ section of the patient records and check the prefilled information from the previous syringe barcode scan. Then they will update the date if necessary (yes there can be some vaccination programs running around midnight!?) and enter the Time received. If the procedure had gone as intended, they will also update the status of the Dose as ‘Confirmed Delivery’. This will ensure that this record will be part of the nightly bulk reporting to the Australian Immunisation Records (AIR) system. The patient will be asked to remain on site for at least 15 minutes after the vaccination. If the patient experiences any unexpected symptoms before they leave, the Vaccine Administrator will record this in On-Vacc as an ‘Adverse Reaction’ incident. This will be reported online to the Pfizer vaccine reporting system, as required by the guidelines.

Admin account- this is the super user account, which is reserved for an IT administrator to perform user account management and other tasks such as software updates.

**Budget Plus Regional Manager - Shakira Rahman**

Vaccine consent may be given by a parent for those under 18, though a patient 16 years or younger would not be allowed to successfully submit the form in On-Vacc. In addition to what we discussed so far, valid consent must be given by a person with legal capacity and of sufficient intellectual capacity. The Vaccine Administrator must assess these criteria and may decline to vaccinate the patient if they do not consider these criteria are met. Yes! And the Administrator will also decline vaccination if they have cause to doubt any of those questions ticked ‘No’ in Page 2 of the form.

Parents need to upload proof of their ID, Medicare card and employment proof, as well as proof of parent or guardianship of a patient under 18 of age. On-Vacc will need to support the use of the iPAD (or other device) scanning such ID for our records. I’m a hard-core Apple user! I know George is die-hard Android <laughs>.

**Department of Health Program Coordinator - Corey Messina**

The Department of Health is supporting Budget Plus to develop On-Vacc. The guidelines and requirements for storing vaccines will change for different vaccines, but we will stick to the system supporting Comirnaty. See how the Vaccine administrator already has the syringe and dose prepared? That is the responsibility of an assigned Vaccine Preparer on site. We anticipate that the senior pharmacist will be assigned to this role. Their job is to take the original bottled vaccine from the provider and make the prescribed dilution, and then divide the contents equally between six syringes to obtain the right single dose. The Preparer will also scan the barcode on the original bottle to obtain the vial ID and date of expiry, before using On-Vacc to print labels to be attached to the syringe. The label should include details such as: Vial ID, expiry date and time of the syringe, and since 6 doses are possible from one vial, the label should record each bottle as “Dose X of 6.” The Vaccine Preparer will also record any unused, expired, or damaged syringes and vials in On-Vacc - providing a written explanation.

**Budget Plus Business Manager - Shakira Rahman**

How quickly this meeting has gone. Next time we will tell you more about the Vaccine Coordinator role. For now, we can note that they will use the system to record receipt of the vaccine vials when they are delivered to the site (the pharmacy, that is), before they are safely stored in the required refrigerated conditions. The Vaccine Coordinator may also record any unused doses and vials, just like the Preparer. The Vaccine Coordinator also adds new Vaccine Administrator and Preparer roles after checking they have the required accreditation and training prescribed by government guidelines. I hope you have received enough information to get started! Perhaps you have a few questions in return... but I can’t wait to see what you come up with for your modelling and requirements.