World Health Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR Europe

Job aid for COVID-19 vaccine administration

AZD1222 (ChAdOx1-S [recombinant]) COVID-19 vaccine*

(International nonproprietary name: COVID-19 Vaccine (ChAdOx1-S [recombinant])

* Product name may vary depending on the manufacturer

General information

Vaccine:	ChAdOx1-S [recombinant] vaccine, multidose vial, the number of doses in the vaccine vials depends on the manufacturer
Age indication:	18 years of age and older

Schedule:	2 doses, 4–12 weeks apart; an interval of 8–12 weeks between doses is preferred
Route and site of administration:	Intramuscular, in the deltoid muscle of the upper arm

Storage condition and shelf life of vaccine

Storage Condition	Shelf life	
Unopened vaccine vials: +2 °C to +8 °C	6 months	• Avoid exposure to direct sunlight and ultraviolet light. • **Do NOT freeze** the vaccine.
Punctured vaccine vials: +2 °C to +30 °C	Up to 6 hours	• Vaccines can be handled in room light conditions during use. • Punctured vaccine vials should be discarded at the end of the immunization session, or 6 hours after first puncturing, whichever comes first.

Note:

Vaccines should preferably be kept in their original secondary packaging.

Material needed for vaccination and supplies

- Syringe for vaccine administration (0.5 ml or 1 ml syringe with 0.1 ml graduations) with 23-gauge (or narrower) needle
- Sterile single-use antiseptic swabs
- Safety box for sharps disposal
- Medical treatment kits to manage allergic reactions in the event of an acute anaphylactic reaction
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for vaccinators and recipients (gown; gloves; medical mask, face shield, goggles) as per the national infection prevention and control guidelines
- Hand hygiene (alcohol-based hand rub or running water and soap) and surface cleaning agents

Contraindication and precautions for vaccination

Contraindications:

- History of severe allergic reaction (e.g. anaphylaxis) to any component of the vaccine. If anaphylaxis occurred after the first dose the second dose should not be administered.

Precautions:

- Acute febrile illness
- Individuals receiving anticoagulant therapy or those with thrombocytopenia or any coagulation disorder (such as haemophilia) because bleeding or bruising may occur following an intramuscular administration

Preparation and administration of vaccine

Note:

The vaccine is ready to use. **Do NOT dilute** the vaccine. **Do NOT freeze** the vaccine.

Preparation for vaccine administration environment	
1. 	• Ensure to wear correct PPE before administering vaccines. Ensure that the implemented policies for the use of face coverings for vaccine recipients are in place.
2. 	• Assess recipient status: – Screen for contraindications and precautions (see above). – Review vaccination history: Which dose will be administered (first/second)? Has any other vaccine been administered within the previous 14 days? If yes, discuss delaying of vaccination (a minimum interval of 14 days following other vaccines should be observed). • Place the patient in a sitting position, looking to the other side.
Withdraw of vaccine	
Note: NEVER use expired vaccine. **NEVER** use vaccine beyond 6 hours after opening (first needle puncture).	
3. 	• Perform hand hygiene before vaccine preparation. Follow aseptic technique throughout vaccine preparation.
4. 	• Remove vaccine vial from the refrigerator and allow vaccine to come to room temperature (up to +30 °C) before administration. **Do NOT shake** the vaccine vial.
5. 	• With the vaccine at room temperature (up to +30 °C) the vaccine is **colourless** to **slightly brown**, with **clear** to slightly **opaque suspension**. **Note:** Do NOT use if liquid is discoloured or if visible particles are observed.
6. 	• Wipe off the stopper of the vaccine vial using a **NEW sterile** single-use antiseptic swab. • Using a **NEW sterile** 23-gauge (or narrower) needle, withdraw 0.5 ml of vaccine from the vial. • Write the **date and time of opening vaccine vial** (first needle puncture) on the vial. **Note:** The same needle to withdraw and administer the vaccine can be used, unless contaminated or damaged.
7. 	• Ensure the prepared syringe is not cold to the touch. • Ensure the liquid in the syringe is **colourless** to **slightly brown**, with **clear** to **slightly opaque suspension**. • Ensure the vaccine volume in the syringe is of 0.5 ml.
8. 	• Keep punctured vaccine vial at +2 °C to +30 °C and administer vaccine within 6 hours. • Discard any unused vaccine of punctured vaccine vials at the end of the immunization session, or 6 hours after first puncturing, whichever comes first. • It is **normal for liquid to remain** in the vial after withdrawing the final dose.
Administration of vaccine	
9. 	• Bring the dose of vaccine from the designated preparation area immediately to the patient treatment area for administration. • Administer the vaccine immediately by intramuscular injection in the deltoid muscle of the upper arm.

10.	• Discard the used syringe into the safety box or safe syringe container (without recapping the needle).
11.	• Observe recipients for **15 minutes** after vaccination for an immediate adverse reaction.
12.	• **Record vaccination** including date, name and batch number of vaccine. Provide a document to the vaccinated person recording the vaccination.
13.	• **Report any suspected adverse reactions** according to the national procedures.

Management of anaphylaxis and anxiety-related reactions

Events of anaphylaxis and anxiety-related reactions may occur. Make sure that a health-care worker competent in identifying and treating these reactions, and necessary equipment and medications, are available. Take precautions to avoid injury from fainting.

Communication during vaccination visit

1. Explain the benefits of the vaccine
"The COVID-19 vaccine is a safe way to protect yourself from the COVID-19 (coronavirus) disease."

2. Enquire about and screen for contraindications and precautions
"We want to make sure it will be safe for you to receive the vaccine."
[Ask about the contraindications and precautions listed above.]

3. Explain the process
"The vaccine is given through an injection into the upper arm. You may feel a slight pinch when the needle goes in. Afterwards, we want you to stay here for 15 minutes to be sure you don't have any allergic reactions."

4. Explain the common side effects
"We want you to be aware of some common side effects of the vaccine. [Explain common and rare side effects.] Common side effects may feel like flu and may even affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. If you have pain or discomfort, contact your doctor.

5. Resolve concerns and answer questions
Listen actively to show interest and concern and ask about any questions or concerns about receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Respond with empathy and understanding.
- Offer positive encouragement.
- Be respectful and avoid arguing.

Common patient concerns	Example responses from health workers
"I am worried about the possible side effects."	"I understand that you want to make the best choice for yourself. What potential side effects are you concerned about?" [Address as appropriate]
"I am not sure what to do. I have heard and read so many things about the vaccine that I don't know what to believe."	"I understand that so much contradictory information can be confusing. I am happy to answer your questions and also refer you to trustworthy sources of information online."

6. Inform about the necessary follow-up
"Remember that you will still need to have a second injection of the COVID-19 vaccine in 4–12 weeks [Adapt the interval according to the national recommendation]. Please make an appointment for that time so we can give you the second injection."

Sources:

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