European Medicines Agency
Pre-authorisation Evaluation of Medicines for Human Use

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COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN MEDICINAL PRODUCTS (CHMP)
BIOLOGICS WORKING PARTY (BWP)

BWP AD-HOC INFLUENZA WORKING GROUP

EU RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE COMPOSITION FOR THE SEASON 2008/2009

The meeting of the Ad hoc Influenza Working Group of the BWP was convened in order to implement Part A of the Note for Guidance on harmonisation of requirements for influenza vaccine i.e. the selection of virus strains for the manufacture of seasonal influenza vaccine for 2008/2009.

Having considered the information on international surveillance by WHO presented by Dr Alan Hay (WHO collaborating centre, Mill Hill, UK), the CHMP BWP Ad hoc Influenza Working Group, consisting of experts on influenza from the Member States, considered that the WHO recommendation on the composition of vaccines for 2008/2009 should be followed:

Trivalent vaccine containing:
— an A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1)-like virus;
— an A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2)-like virus;
— a B/Florida/4/2006-like virus.

On the basis of cross reactivity and growth in eggs, the group agreed that for the purpose of vaccine manufacture, the following strains be accepted:

a) Reassortant virus IVR-148, which is derived from A/Brisbane/59/2007, as an A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1)-like strain.

b) Reassortant virus NYMC X-175C, which is derived from A/Uruguay/716/2007, as an A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2)-like strain

c) B/Florida/4/2006 and B/Brisbane/3/2007 as B/Florida/4/2006-like strains

Reagents for vaccine standardisation will be supplied by NIBSC, UK (see Annex I).

Submission time of variation in according to Article 7 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1085/2003

CHMP informs the Marketing Authorisation holders of centrally approved seasonal influenza vaccines of the deadline for submission of the annual strain change variation[1]: 16 June 2008.

[1] See: EMEA fast track procedure for community human influenza inactivated vaccines annual strain(s) update according to art. 7 of Commission regulation (EC) no 1085/2003 (EMEA/CHMP/BWP/99698/2007)

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ANNEX I

Reagents for vaccine standardisation[2]

Available from NIBSC, UK[3]

H1N1

A/Brisbane/59/2007 (IVR-148) antigen will be made available
A/Brisbane/59/2007 antiserum will be made available

H3N2

A/Uruguay/716/2007 (NYMC X-175C) antigen will be made available
A/Uruguay/716/2007 antiserum will be made available

B

B/Florida/4/2006 antigen is currently available: NIBSC 07/292
B/Florida/4/2006 antiserum is currently available: NIBSC 07/356

B/Brisbane/3/2007 antigen is currently available[4]: Lot 2007/80B
B/Brisbane/3/2007 antiserum is currently available[4]: AS394

[2] Manufactures may use reagents for standardisation prepared by TGA, Australia and CBER, USA following discussion and agreement with the concerned OMCL and provided that the same reagents are used for the entire production campaign.

[3] For availability and progress in development of reagents, consult the following website: http://www.nibsc.ac.uk/flu_site/index.html

[4] Reagent prepared by TGA, Australia: http://www.tga.gov.au