CareKinesis® PACE Pharmacy

COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

General Information about the Vaccine Trials:

What is meant by vaccine "effectiveness?"

For the COVID-19 vaccine, Pfizer drew antibody titers seven days post booster dose. Moderna drew antibody titers 14 days post booster dose. Pfizer and Moderna only tested for SARS CoV-2 if a study participant developed symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Only 5% of those receiving the Pfizer vaccine later became symptomatic and tested positive (i.e. vaccine deemed 95% effective) and 5.6% of those receiving the Moderna vaccine later became symptomatic and tested positive (i.e. vaccine deemed 94.6% effective). Note: Because only symptomatic patients were later tested, there is risk/probability that those with asymptomatic or low-level disease were not counted and consequently these numbers could be somewhat inflated.

Astra-Zeneca drew antibody titers and has performed regular COVID testing on all study participants, regardless of their symptomatology. Anyone testing positive was considered a therapy "failure." While showing a lower efficacy (70-90%), they were able to include those with no or low symptoms of COVID-19.

What are the demographics of trial study participants? Were older individuals (65+) included in any of the trials?

While more extensive recruiting is taking place for minority inclusion in the COVID vaccine trials worldwide (Black, Hispanic, Asian, etc.), there is an admitted lack of diversity in minority participation in early U.S. and European trials (from which U.S. vaccines for administration will likely originate). According to Healthline, both Blacks and Hispanics are noticeably under-represented in clinical trials. This may be attributed to lack of invitation as well as lack of response or interest from those who were invited, possibly due to lack of trust in the safety or efficacy of "experimental" drugs/procedures.

Is there any information on populations who should not receive the vaccine, such as immunocompromised or pregnant individuals?

While the vaccines should all be safe for those with autoimmune disease or suppressed immune systems due to medications, diseases, etc., it is difficult to predict how well the vaccines will work in for these patients. Those who receive the vaccine and produce only a partial response might later contract a mild case of the disease, if exposed.

Late stages of clinical trials are including pregnant patients as well as children. So far, adverse reactions seen were not outside the ranges seen in earlier phases.

Is there any information on specific populations that should or should not be vaccinated?

To date there are no specific populations or disease, drug, or food-related contra-indications for the COVID vaccine.

Is there any research around people with multiple co-morbidities receiving the vaccine?

No. It is recommended for all patients with multiple co-morbidities to receive the COVID vaccine.

Will these vaccines be indicated for children? Over what age?

As mentioned previously, late stages of clinical trials are including pregnant patients as well as children. To our knowledge, there has been no mention to date regarding a lower age limit.

Administering the Vaccine:

Will it be mandatory for any population(s) to receive the vaccine?

The vaccine is highly recommended, but it is not mandatory for any population.

Is there any indication or chance that the vaccine series may need to be repeated?

We do not yet know if the series will need to be repeated. As case studies of patients who have been infected more than once are reported, we believe there may be cases where natural immunity does not last a lifetime. The vaccine studies are too new to know if acquired immunity will last for months, years or longer.

How long should participants be monitored for adverse reactions following vaccination?

As with any vaccine, the patient should be watched for 15-30 minutes post-injection for any immediate idiosyncratic reactions, and then for 24-48 hours for any delayed-onset adverse reaction. It is important to educate the participant as to the signs of a potential adverse reaction and when they should contact you. If there is an adverse reaction from the vaccine, it will be within the first 24-48 hours.

Acquiring the Vaccine:

Should we work through CareKinesis to procure the vaccine for our participants, or through our county/state offices?

While we have ordered almost 70,000 doses, we do not know how many we will actually receive or when we will receive it. The goal is to get the participants vaccinated and protected as soon as possible. Therefore, the first vaccine available is the one you should acquire and administer, regardless of whether you procure it from your state's health department, a nursing home provider or CareKinesis.

Can we order vaccines for participants and staff through CareKinesis?

Yes. We will be sending an order form similar to the one used for our annual flu vaccine orders.

Will PACE participants who live in LTC facilities receive the vaccine through that facility, or should we include these participants in our planning and numbers for ordering the vaccine?

Whether a participant's LTC facility will provide the vaccine depends on the facility, so it important to communicate with the facility. Again, the goal is to get the participants vaccinated and protected as soon as possible. The first vaccine available is the one you should acquire and administer, whether from a nursing home provider or from CareKinesis.

Is there a waiting list with CareKinesis that we should get on so that we receive the vaccine promptly, once it is available?

All vaccine orders will be handled with the same priority. We have ordered enough for every participant to receive their two doses. However, there is no guarantee that CareKinesis will receive all requested doses at one time. As the vaccine may be rationed to us, we may also need to ration the vaccine until all patients in all PACE programs are properly vaccinated.

Can PACE organizations who do not contract with CareKinesis for pharmacy services order the vaccine through CareKinesis?

We are investigating our ability to acquire additional vaccine for PACE participants not currently serviced by CareKinesis.

For more information on acquiring the vaccine through CareKinesis, contact info@carekinesis.com or call (888) 974-2763.