

## **Package leaflet: Information for the user**

### **Fluarix Tetra suspension for injection in pre-filled syringe** Influenza vaccine (split virion, inactivated)

This leaflet has been written assuming the person receiving the vaccine is reading it, but it can be given to adolescents and children so you may be reading it for your child.

**Read all of this leaflet carefully before you or your child start receiving this vaccine because it contains important information for you.**

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This vaccine has been prescribed for you or your child only. Do not pass it on to others.
- If you or your child get any side effects, talk to your doctor. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

#### **What is in this leaflet**

1. What Fluarix Tetra is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you use Fluarix Tetra
3. How Fluarix Tetra is given
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Fluarix Tetra
6. Contents of the pack and other information

#### **1. What Fluarix Tetra is and what it is used for**

Fluarix Tetra is a vaccine. This vaccine helps to protect you against influenza (flu), particularly in subjects who run a high risk of associated complications. The use of Fluarix Tetra should be based on official recommendations.

When a person is given the vaccine Fluarix Tetra, the immune system (the body's natural defence system) will produce its own protection (antibodies) against the disease. None of the ingredients in the vaccine can cause flu.

Flu is a disease that can spread rapidly and is caused by different types of strains that can change every year. Therefore, this is why you might need to be vaccinated every year. The greatest risk of catching flu is during the cold months between October and March. If you were not vaccinated in the autumn, it is still sensible to be vaccinated up until the spring since you run the risk of catching flu until then. Your doctor will be able to recommend the best time to be vaccinated. Fluarix Tetra will protect you against the four strains of virus contained in the vaccine from about 2 to 3 weeks after the injection.

The incubation period for flu is a few days, so if you are exposed to flu immediately before or after your vaccination, you could still develop the illness.

The vaccine will not protect you against the common cold, even though some of the symptoms are similar to flu.

## **2. What you need to know before you use Fluarix Tetra**

To make sure that Fluarix Tetra is suitable for you, it is important to tell your doctor or pharmacist if any of the points below apply to you. If there is anything you do not understand, ask your doctor or pharmacist to explain.

### **Do not use Fluarix Tetra**

- If you are allergic to the active substances or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6) or any components that may be present in very small amounts such as eggs (ovalbumin or chicken proteins), formaldehyde, gentamicin sulphate or sodium deoxycholate.
- If you have an illness with a high temperature or acute infection, the vaccination shall be postponed until after you have recovered.

### **Warnings and precautions**

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before you receive Fluarix Tetra:

- if you have a poor immune response (immunodeficiency or taking medicines affecting the immune system).
- if, for any reason, you have a blood test within a few days following a flu vaccination. This is because false positive blood test results have been observed in a few patients who had recently been vaccinated.
- if you have a bleeding problem or bruise easily.

Your doctor will decide if you should receive the vaccine.

Fainting can occur (mostly in adolescents) following, or even before, any needle injection, therefore tell the doctor or nurse if you fainted with a previous injection.

As with all vaccines, Fluarix Tetra may not fully protect all persons who are vaccinated.

### **Other medicines and Fluarix Tetra**

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines.

Fluarix Tetra can be given at the same time as other vaccines by using separate limbs.

### **Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility**

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

Your doctor/pharmacist will be able to decide if you should receive Fluarix Tetra. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking any medicine.

### **Driving and using machines**

Fluarix Tetra has no or negligible influence on the ability to drive or use machines.

### **Fluarix Tetra contains sodium**

This medicinal product contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per dose, i.e. essentially “sodium free”.

### **Fluarix Tetra contains potassium**

This medicine contains potassium, less than 1 mmol (39 mg) per dose, i.e. essentially “potassium-free”.

## **3. How Fluarix Tetra is given**

### **Dosage**

Adults receive one 0.5 ml dose.

Use in children:

Children from 6 months and older receive one 0.5 ml dose.

If your child is younger than 9 years of age and has not been previously vaccinated against flu, a second dose should be given after at least 4 weeks.

### **Method and/or route of administration**

Your doctor will administer the recommended dose of the vaccine as an injection into the muscle. If you have any further questions on the use of this product, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

## **4. Possible side effects**

Like all medicines, this vaccine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

During clinical trials, the following side effects have been observed.

### **Side effects that occurred in children 6 to 36 months of age**

**Very common** (these may occur with more than 1 in 10 doses of the vaccine): loss of appetite, irritability, drowsiness, pain at the injection site, redness at the injection site.

**Common** (these may occur with up to 1 in 10 doses of the vaccine): fever, swelling at the injection site.

### **Side effects that occurred in children 3 to 6 years of age**

**Very common** (these may occur with more than 1 in 10 doses of the vaccine): pain and/or redness and/or swelling at the injection site, irritability.

**Common** (these may occur with up to 1 in 10 doses of the vaccine): loss of appetite, drowsiness, fever.

**Uncommon** (these may occur with up to 1 in 100 doses of the vaccine): rash, itching at the injection site.

Side effects that occurred in children 6 to 18 years of age

**Very common** (these may occur with more than 1 in 10 doses of the vaccine): aching muscles, pain and/or redness and/or swelling at the injection site, fatigue.

**Common** (these may occur with up to 1 in 10 doses of the vaccine): feeling sick, diarrhoea, vomiting, stomach pain, headache, joint pain, shivering, fever.

**Uncommon** (these may occur with up to 1 in 100 doses of the vaccine): rash, itching at the injection site.

Side effects that occurred in adults  $\geq$  18 years of age

**Very common** (these may occur with more than 1 in 10 doses of the vaccine): pain at the injection site, fatigue, muscular pain (myalgia).

**Common** (these may occur with up to 1 in 10 doses of the vaccine): headache, feeling sick, diarrhoea, vomiting, stomach pain, joint pain (arthralgia), fever, shivering, redness and/or swelling at the injection site.

**Uncommon** (these may occur with up to 1 in 100 doses of the vaccine): bruising (hematoma), itching (pruritus) around the area where the vaccine is injected, dizziness.

In addition, side effects that occurred during clinical studies in subjects from 3 years of age with Fluarix (trivalent influenza vaccine) were:

**Common** (these may occur with up to 1 in 10 doses of the vaccine): hardness (induration) around the area where the vaccine is injected, sweating.

These reactions usually disappear within 1-2 days without treatment.

Next to the above side effects, the following side effects occurred during general use of Fluarix and/or Fluarix Tetra.

**Rare** (these may occur with up to 1 in 1 000 doses of the vaccine):

- allergic reactions:
  - leading to medical emergency with a failure of the circulatory system to maintain adequate blood flow to the different organs (shock),
  - swelling most apparent in the head and neck, including the face, lips, tongue, throat or any other part of the body (angioedema).
- skin reactions that may spread throughout the body including itchiness (pruritus, urticaria) and redness (erythema) of the skin
- neurological disorders that may result in stiff neck, confusion, numbness, pain and weakness of the limbs, loss of balance, loss of reflexes, paralysis of part or all the body (encephalomyelitis, neuritis, Guillain-Barré syndrome)
- temporary swelling of the glands in the neck, armpit or groin (transient lymphadenopathy)
- flu-like symptoms, generally feeling unwell (malaise)

## Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via HPRA Pharmacovigilance, Website: [www.hpra.ie](http://www.hpra.ie). By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

## 5. How to store Fluarix Tetra

Keep this vaccine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use this vaccine after the expiry date which is stated on the carton after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Store in a refrigerator (2 °C – 8 °C).

Do not freeze.

Store in the original package in order to protect from light.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

## 6. Contents of the pack and other information

### What Fluarix Tetra contains

**The active substance is:** Influenza virus (inactivated, split) of the following strains\*:

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| <b>A/Victoria/4897/2022 (H1N1)pdm09-like strain (A/Victoria/4897/2022, IVR-238)</b> | <b>15 micrograms HA**</b> |
| <b>A/Darwin/9/2021 (H3N2)-like strain (A/Darwin/6/2021, IVR-227)</b>                | <b>15 micrograms HA**</b> |
| <b>B/Austria/1359417/2021-like strain (B/Austria/1359417/2021, BVR-26)</b>          | <b>15 micrograms HA**</b> |
| <b>B/Phuket/3073/2013-like strain (B/Phuket/3073/2013, wild type)</b>               | <b>15 micrograms HA**</b> |

per 0.5 ml dose

\* propagated in fertilised hens' eggs from healthy chicken flocks

\*\* haemagglutinin

This vaccine complies with the World Health Organization (WHO) recommendation (northern hemisphere) and EU recommendation for the **2023/2024** season.

The other ingredients are: sodium chloride, disodium phosphate dodecahydrate, potassium dihydrogen phosphate, potassium chloride, magnesium chloride hexahydrate,  $\alpha$ -tocopheryl hydrogen succinate, polysorbate 80, octoxinol 10 and water for injections.

### **What Fluarix Tetra looks like and contents of the pack**

Fluarix Tetra is a suspension for injection in pre-filled syringe.

Fluarix Tetra is available in 1-dose pre-filled syringe with or without separate needles, pack sizes of 1 and 10.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

### **Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer**

Marketing Authorisation Holder:

GlaxoSmithKline (Ireland) Limited, 12 Riverwalk, Citywest Business Campus, Dublin 24, Ireland

Manufacturer:

GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals, Branch of SmithKline Beecham Pharma GmbH & Co. KG, Zirkusstrasse 40, D-01069, Dresden, Germany

**This medicine is authorised in the Member States of the European Economic Area under the following names:**

| <u>Member State</u>   | <u>Name</u>      |
|---|------------------|
| Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden | Fluarix Tetra    |
| Belgium, Luxembourg   | Alpharix-Tetra   |
| France  | FluarixTetra     |
| Germany   | Influsplit Tetra |

**This leaflet was last revised in 05/2024.**

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The following information is intended for healthcare professional only:

As with all injectable vaccines, appropriate medical treatment and supervision should always be readily available in case of an anaphylactic event following the administration of the vaccine.

Immunisation should be carried out by intramuscular injection.

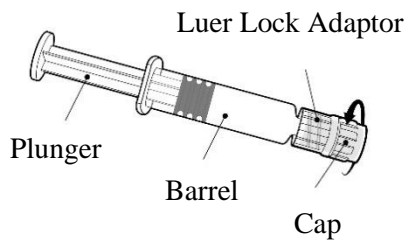
Fluarix Tetra should under no circumstances be administered intravascularly.

Fluarix Tetra may be given at the same time as other vaccines. Immunisation should be carried out on separate limbs.

The vaccine should be allowed to reach room temperature before use.

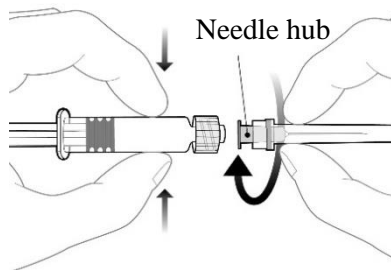
Shake before use. Inspect visually prior to administration.

#### Instructions for the pre-filled syringe



Hold the syringe by the barrel, not by the plunger.

Unscrew the syringe cap by twisting it anticlockwise.



To attach the needle, connect the hub to the Luer Lock Adaptor and rotate a quarter turn clockwise until you feel it lock.

Do not pull the syringe plunger out of the barrel. If it happens, do not administer the vaccine.

#### Disposal

Any unused medicinal product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.