

SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT –
Mammalian Cell Culture-Based Influenza Vaccines

An Advisory Committee Statement (ACS) National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI)

Canadian Immunization Guide Chapter on
Influenza and Statement on Seasonal Influenza
Vaccine for 2020–2021

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PREAMBLE

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) provides the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) with ongoing and timely medical, scientific, and public health advice relating to immunization.

In addition to burden of disease and vaccine characteristics, PHAC has expanded the mandate of NACI to include the consideration of programmatic factors in developing evidence-based recommendations to facilitate timely decision-making for publicly funded vaccine programs at provincial and territorial levels.

The additional factors to be considered by NACI include: economics, ethics, equity, feasibility, and acceptability. Over the coming years NACI will be refining methodological approaches to include these factors. Not all NACI Statements will require in-depth analyses of all programmatic factors. As NACI works towards full implementation of the expanded mandate, select Statements will include varying degrees of programmatic analyses for public health programs.

PHAC acknowledges that the advice and recommendations set out in this statement are based upon the best current available scientific knowledge and is disseminating this document for information purposes. People administering the vaccine should also be aware of the contents of the relevant product monograph(s). Recommendations for use and other information set out herein may differ from that set out in the product monograph(s) of the Canadian manufacturer(s) of the vaccine(s). Manufacturer(s) have sought approval of the vaccine(s) and provided evidence as to its safety and efficacy only when it is used in accordance with the product monographs. NACI members and liaison members conduct themselves within the context of PHAC's Policy on Conflict of Interest, including yearly declaration of potential conflict of interest.

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SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS NACI SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT

The following highlights key information for immunization providers. Please refer to the remainder of this supplemental statement for details.

1. What

Flucelvax[®] Quad is a mammalian cell culture-based, inactivated seasonal influenza vaccine that has recently been authorized for use in Canada in adults and children ≥ 9 years of age.

2. Who

This supplemental statement addresses the annual influenza vaccination of adults and children who do not have contraindications for the influenza vaccine.

3. How

Flucelvax[®] Quad may be considered among the quadrivalent influenza vaccines offered to adults and children ≥ 9 years of age for their annual influenza vaccination.

4. Why

Flucelvax[®] Quad is considered effective, immunogenic, and safe in adults and children ≥ 9 years of age, and has a comparable immunogenicity and safety profile to egg-based influenza vaccines already licensed in Canada and Flucelvax[®], which is a trivalent cell culture-based influenza vaccine that has been licensed in the United States, but for which licensure has never been sought in Canada. Flucelvax[®] Quad can provide broader protection against influenza B viruses when compared with trivalent influenza vaccines.

I. INTRODUCTION

Influenza is a viral infection that is estimated to cause approximately 12,200 hospitalizations⁽¹⁾ and 3,500 deaths⁽²⁾ in Canada annually. Influenza in humans is caused by two main types of influenza virus: A, which is classified into subtypes based on hemagglutinin (HA) and neuraminidase (NA) surface proteins, and B, which consists of two antigenically distinct lineages, B/Yamagata and B/Victoria. Seasonal influenza vaccines are either trivalent or quadrivalent formulations. Trivalent influenza vaccines contain two influenza A and one influenza B strain, and quadrivalent influenza vaccines contain the three strains included in trivalent vaccines and an additional influenza B strain from the other lineage of influenza B. Each year, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) publishes a statement on seasonal influenza vaccines, which contains recommendations and guidance on the use of influenza vaccines for the upcoming influenza season.

Influenza vaccine production using mammalian cell culture-based technology is an innovative technique that may offer enhanced manufacturing scalability and sterility and, thus, a potentially valuable alternative to overcome some of the problems and vulnerabilities associated with egg-based production⁽³⁻⁶⁾. Cell culture systems are more rapid, and robust, and produce yields with higher purity and a lower risk of production failure compared to standard egg-based manufacturing. The production timeline for the manufacturing of cell culture-based vaccines is more flexible compared to egg-based production because cells are frozen and banked, and virus amplification relies primarily on the capacity of bioreactors⁽³⁻⁵⁾. The use of cell-culture technology for the manufacturing of influenza vaccines offers the additional advantages of reduced microbial or chemical contamination due to a closed system of vaccine production. There is also potentially higher vaccine effectiveness relative to standard egg-based influenza vaccines due to insulation from egg-adaptive mutations changes, and there is potential for quicker large-scale production of vaccine⁽³⁻⁷⁾. However, at the time of statement development, there is a lack of infrastructure and experience with the cell culture-based production platform for influenza vaccines and the resulting cost of these vaccines is typically greater compared to vaccines made using egg-based manufacturing.

Flucelvax[®] Quad (Seqirus, Inc.) is a mammalian cell culture-based quadrivalent inactivated, subunit influenza vaccine (IIV4-cc) that was authorized for use in Canada in adults and children 9 years of age and older on November 22, 2019⁽⁸⁾. Flucelvax[®] Quad (also licensed as Flucelvax[®] Quadrivalent or Flucelvax[®] Tetra in other jurisdictions) is prepared from viruses propagated in mammalian cell lines [proprietary 33016-PF Madin-Darby Canine Kidney (MDCK) cell lines] adapted to grow freely in suspension in culture medium. The authorization of Flucelvax[®] Quad triggered the need for a supplemental NACI statement as it is the first and only available mammalian cell culture-based influenza vaccine in Canada, and NACI has not previously made a recommendation on cell culture-based influenza vaccines in any population.

Flucelvax[®] Quad builds on the clinical development of its trivalent predecessor, Flucelvax[®] (registered as Optafu[®] in the European Union, Australia and Switzerland), a cell culture-grown, inactivated influenza vaccine developed by Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics, Inc. (currently operating as Seqirus, Inc.). Flucelvax[®] was the first mammalian cell culture-derived inactivated influenza vaccine. It was approved for use in adults in Europe, under the trade name Optafu[®], from 2007 to 2017, and in the US under the trade name Flucelvax[®] since 2012. Originally, the same egg-derived candidate vaccine viruses (CVVs) used in egg-based manufacturing, but grown in cultured mammalian cells, were used in the production of Flucelvax[®]. On August 31, 2016, Seqirus, Inc. received approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the use of

CVVs that had been isolated and propagated in MDCK cells for the manufacture of cell culture-based inactivated quadrivalent influenza vaccine⁽⁹⁾. This approval enabled the production of completely cell-derived influenza vaccine viruses from the initial virus isolation through to the full manufacture of the vaccine. The Flucelvax[®] Quadrivalent vaccine (US product) for the 2017–2018 influenza season was the first vaccine to be manufactured from A(H3N2) CVVs produced exclusively using the cell-derived method, while the A(H1N1) and the B strain CVVs were egg-derived⁽⁴⁾. For the 2018–2019 Flucelvax[®] Quadrivalent vaccine, the A(H3N2) and B strain CVVs were derived from the mammalian cell line, while the A(H1N1) CVVs remained egg derived. The Flucelvax[®] quadrivalent formulation for the 2019–2020 influenza season was manufactured using CVVs for all four influenza viruses that were derived solely from mammalian cell lines. It has been hypothesized that propagation of CVVs in mammalian cells may improve vaccine effectiveness relative to licensed egg-based influenza vaccines by reducing the risk of antigenic drift and changes acquired in the HA of human influenza viruses during isolation, adaptation, and propagation in eggs^(4,6,10).

Guidance Objective

The objective of this advisory committee supplemental statement is to review the evidence for efficacy, effectiveness, immunogenicity, and safety that is available for Flucelvax[®] Quad, and to provide guidance on its use in Canada in adults and children.

II. METHODS

In brief, the broad stages in the preparation of a NACI Advisory Committee Statement are:

1. Knowledge synthesis of the whole body of evidence on benefits and harms, considering the quality of the evidence and magnitude of effects observed.
2. Translation of evidence into recommendations

Further information on NACI's evidence-based methods is available in: *Evidence-Based Recommendations for Immunization: Methods of the NACI, January 2009, CCDR* at: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/09vol35/acs-1/index-eng.php>

A systematic literature review was conducted to accumulate evidence for NACI's recommendations regarding the use of Flucelvax® Quad, which is licensed for adults and children ≥9 years of age in Canada. Mammalian cell culture-based influenza vaccines have been approved for use by the US FDA in adults and children 4 years or older since the 2013-2014 influenza season (6 years) and effectiveness, immunogenicity, and safety data is currently available for this age group. The systematic review methodology was developed with the NACI Influenza Working Group (IWG) and specified a priori in a written protocol that included review questions, search strategy, inclusion and exclusion criteria, and quality assessment.

Research question

What are the vaccine efficacy, effectiveness, immunogenicity, and safety of Flucelvax® Quad in persons 4 years of age and older?

P (population):	Children and adults (≥4 years of age)
I (intervention):	Mammalian cell culture-based influenza vaccine
C (comparison):	Egg-based, standard-dose quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4-SD), trivalent, standard dose inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV3-SD), high-dose (IIV3-HD) or adjuvanted trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV3-Adj), mammalian cell culture-based trivalent inactivated, subunit influenza vaccine (IIV3-cc), placebo, or no comparator
O (outcomes):	Efficacy, effectiveness, immunogenicity, safety

The search strategy was developed based on the research question and PICO illustrated above, in conjunction with a librarian from the Health Library of Health Canada and PHAC (search strategy available upon request). The EMBASE, MEDLINE, Scopus, ProQuest Public Health, and ClinicalTrials.gov, electronic databases were searched for primary research articles and case reports from inception until February 12, 2019. Registered clinical trials and grey literature from international public health authorities and National Immunization Technical Advisory Groups were also considered. Searches were restricted to articles published in English and French due to the language proficiencies of the reviewers. Additionally, hand-searching of the reference lists of included articles was performed by one reviewer to identify additional relevant publications. Two reviewers independently screened the titles and abstracts of records retrieved from the database searches for potential eligibility. The full-texts of records deemed potentially eligible were obtained

and further reviewed by both reviewers for potential inclusion in the review. Refer to Appendix A for the PRISMA Flow Diagram.

One reviewer extracted data from the studies included for review into an evidence table using a piloted data abstraction template designed to capture information on study design, population and outcomes of interest. A second reviewer independently validated the abstracted data with any disagreements or discrepancies resolved by discussion and consensus. The level of evidence (i.e. study design) and methodological quality of included studies was assessed independently by two reviewers using the design-specific criteria outlined by Harris et al.(2001)⁽¹¹⁾, which has been adopted by NACI for rating the internal validity of individual studies. Any disagreements or discrepancies in the data extraction and quality appraisal were resolved by discussion and consensus. The knowledge synthesis was performed by AS and JP, and was supervised by the Influenza Working Group (IWG).

Studies were included if they met the following criteria:

1. The study population or subpopulation consisted of individuals ≥ 4 years of age; and
2. Study assessed efficacy and effectiveness, immunogenicity, or safety of Flucelvax[®] Quad or safety of Flucelvax[®]
3. Primary research studies from peer-reviewed scientific literature
4. Case reports and case series
5. Registered clinical trials and grey literature from international public health authorities
6. Study is published in English or French

Studies were excluded if they met one or more of the following criteria:

1. The study did not present data on any of: the efficacy, effectiveness, immunogenicity, or safety of Flucelvax[®] Quad, or the safety of Flucelvax[®];
2. The study is in a language other than English or French;
3. The study is a non-human or in vitro study;
4. The article is not a primary research study;
5. The article is an editorial, opinion, commentary or news report;
6. The article is an economic study, clinical practice guidelines, consensus conference, health technology assessment report; or
7. The article was a doctoral dissertation, master's thesis, or conference summary

Flucelvax[®] Quad has overlapping composition with Flucelvax[®] (the trivalent formulation) and is produced using the same MDCK manufacturing platform^(12,13). Therefore, studies that assessed the safety of Flucelvax[®] were also included in this literature review post hoc to supplement the evidence base for the safety outcome. Specialty trivalent vaccines (i.e., high-dose trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV3-HD) and adjuvanted trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV3-Adj) were also added as comparator vaccines post hoc, since these comparisons would originally have been excluded as there is currently no comparable quadrivalent formulation of these vaccines.

Development of Recommendations

Following critical appraisal of individual studies, summary tables with ratings of the quality of the evidence using NACI's methodological hierarchy ([Table 4 and 5](#)) were prepared, and proposed recommendations for vaccine use were developed. The evidence and proposed recommendations were discussed by the IWG in July 2019 and the NACI Vaccine Safety Working Group in August 2019. The IWG Chair and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) technical advisor (AS) presented the evidence and proposed recommendations to NACI on September 25, 2019. Following thorough review of the evidence, NACI approved the recommendation contained in this statement on December 16, 2019. The description of relevant considerations, rationale for specific decisions, and knowledge gaps are described in the following sections.

III. VACCINE

III.1 Mammalian Cell Culture-Based Influenza Vaccine Preparation Authorized for Use in Canada

Flucelvax® Quad is a subunit influenza vaccine prepared from CVVs isolated and propagated in a MDCK cell line. It is authorized for intramuscular (IM) injection and is available as a 0.5 mL single-dose, pre-filled syringe without a needle, and as a 5 mL multi-dose vial containing 10 doses (each dose is 0.5 mL). For more information on Flucelvax® Quad, refer to the product monograph⁽⁸⁾.

Table 1. Characteristics of Flucelvax® Quad influenza vaccine

Route of Administration	Dosage	Non-medicinal Ingredients
Intramuscular	Each 0.5 mL dose contains 15 µg of hemagglutinin (HA) of each of the four influenza virus strains contained in the vaccine.	Disodium phosphate dihydrate, magnesium chloride hexahydrate, potassium chloride, potassium dihydrogen phosphate, sodium chloride, thimerosal (multi-dose vial only) and water for injection. Each dose may also contain residual amounts of: beta-propiolactone, cetyltrimethylammonium bromide, polysorbate 80

III.2 Vaccine Efficacy and Effectiveness

No efficacy studies for Flucelvax® Quad were identified and studies evaluating the efficacy of Flucelvax® were beyond the scope of this review.

Four studies, two peer-reviewed and two not peer-reviewed were identified that assessed the effectiveness of Flucelvax® Quad⁽¹⁴⁻¹⁷⁾. Of these four studies, two were of good quality^(15, 16), while the quality of the other two studies^(14, 17) could not be assessed because they were published as conference abstracts or posters. Common concerns relating to the quality of evidence included potential residual or unmeasured confounding even after statistical adjustments⁽¹⁴⁻¹⁷⁾ and exposure and outcome misclassification^(14, 16). The following section outlines the key effectiveness findings from all these studies; additional details regarding study characteristics and results are shown in [Table 6](#).

III.2.1 Effectiveness against Influenza Infection

Two studies assessed the vaccine effectiveness (VE) of IIV4-cc compared to egg-based IIV against laboratory-confirmed influenza infection during the 2017–2018 influenza season in the USA. The first was a peer-reviewed study by DeMarcus et al. (2019), which used test-negative case-control design and was conducted by the US Department of Defense Global Respiratory Pathogen Surveillance Program⁽¹⁵⁾. The DeMarcus et al. (2019) study included Department of Defense (DoD) healthcare beneficiaries (excluding service members) 6 months–94 years of age

(median age: 13 years) who presented to a military treatment facility with symptoms of influenza-like illness (ILI) and had a respiratory specimen collected between October 1st 2017–April 28 2018. Individuals testing positive for influenza by reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) or viral culture, were classified as cases, while influenza-negative individuals were classified as controls⁽¹⁵⁾. The second study by Klein et al. (2018), which was not peer-reviewed, is a retrospective cohort analysis of VE against PCR-confirmed influenza A(H3N2) influenza virus infection among Kaiser Permanente Northern California members aged 4–64 years⁽¹⁷⁾.

The results from the study by DeMarcus et al. (2019) indicated that the odds of having any laboratory-confirmed influenza infection were not statistically significantly different between individuals who had received IIV4-cc and those who received egg-based IIV (trivalent or quadrivalent formulation). The authors conducted sub-analyses by influenza subtype and by age group, and found that the odds of having influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 infection were higher overall for all DoD dependents (odds ratio [OR]: 2.0; 95% CI: 1.1–3.6 %) and for children (OR: 2.9; 95% CI: 1.3–6.3%) who received the IIV4-cc compared to those that received an egg-based IIV⁽¹⁵⁾. The odds of having influenza A(H3N2) infection appeared to be lower overall and for adults who received the IIV4-cc compared to egg-based IIV, but the results did not reach statistical significance⁽¹⁵⁾. All other estimates showed no statistically significant difference between the two vaccine types⁽¹⁵⁾.

The results from the study by Klein et al. indicated that both IIV4-cc and egg-based IIV [trivalent (received by 86.2% of members) or quadrivalent formulation] had relatively low effectiveness with respect to the risk of laboratory-confirmed influenza during the 2017–2018 influenza season. The authors found no statistically significant difference in VE against laboratory-confirmed influenza A infection between individuals vaccinated with IIV4-cc versus egg-based IIV (adjusted rVE: 6.8%; 95% CI: -11.2–21.9%; P=0.43)⁽¹⁷⁾. The adjusted absolute VE for subjects vaccinated with IIV4-cc was 30.2% (95% CI: 17.1–41.3%; P<0.0001) and 17.9% (95% CI: 12.1–23.3%; P<0.0001) for subjects vaccinated with either egg-based IIV4 or IIV3⁽¹⁷⁾.

III.2.2 Effectiveness against Influenza-Related Health Care Interactions

One study by Izurieta et al. (2018) assessed the VE of IIV4-cc compared to 4 other egg-based influenza vaccines (egg-based, standard-dose quadrivalent IIV (IIV4-SD), egg-based IIV3, egg-based IIV3-Adj, and egg-based IIV3-HD) in preventing influenza-related health care interactions (i.e. office visits and hospital encounters). Influenza-related office visits were defined as community-based visits to physicians' offices and hospital outpatient visits in which a rapid influenza test was performed by the healthcare provider and a therapeutic course of oseltamivir (75 mg twice daily for 5 days) was prescribed within 2 days following the test⁽¹⁶⁾. Hospital encounters were defined as inpatient hospitalizations and emergency department visits in which International Classification of Diseases (ICD), Tenth revision, Clinical Modification, code for influenza was listed. This retrospective cohort study made use of electronic medical records (EMRs) providing data on enrolment in fee-for-service Medicare parts A and B in the 6 months before vaccination, inpatient and outpatient care, physician office visits, and prescription drugs for Medicare beneficiaries ≥65 years of age who received an influenza vaccine during the 2017–2018 influenza season⁽¹⁶⁾. Estimates were adjusted using inverse probability of treatment weighting, and weights were derived from propensity scores⁽¹⁶⁾. Relative vaccine effectiveness (rVE) was defined as the difference in influenza-related hospital encounters between persons vaccinated with IIV4-cc versus egg-based vaccines.

In a 2-way comparison, IIV4-cc was statistically significantly more effective against office visits (rVE): 10.5%; 95% CI: 6.8%–14.0%) and hospital encounters (rVE: 10.0%; 95% CI: 7.0%–13.0%) than egg-based, IIV4-SD⁽¹⁶⁾. In an analysis comparing this vaccine to four other egg-based formulations, IIV4-cc was statistically significantly ($P \leq 0.05$) more effective against office visits compared to egg-based IIV4-SD and IIV3-Adj, and against inpatient stays and hospital encounters, compared to egg-based IIV3-SD, IIV4-SD, and IIV3-Adj⁽¹⁶⁾. In addition, IIV4-cc was statistically significantly more effective against office visits compared to egg-based IIV3-HD, but not against inpatient visits or hospital encounters⁽¹⁶⁾.

III.2.3 Effectiveness against Influenza-Like Illness

One study that was recently accepted for publication assessed the effectiveness of Flucelvax[®] Quadrivalent for the prevention of ILI⁽¹⁴⁾. Boikos et al. (2018) conducted a retrospective cohort study in the US during the 2017–2018 influenza season to determine the relative VE (rVE) of Flucelvax[®] Quadrivalent to standard-dose quadrivalent egg-based inactivated influenza vaccines against ILI [as defined by the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Centre (AFHSC) ICD Code Set B]⁽¹⁸⁾ in individuals ≥ 4 years of age⁽¹⁴⁾. The rVE estimates were based on real-world primary care data from the EMRs of individual patients 4 years of age and older who were vaccinated with either Flucelvax[®] Quadrivalent ($n = 92,192$) or egg-based IIV4-SD ($n = 1,255,983$). Results demonstrated that Flucelvax[®] Quadrivalent was statistically significantly more effective than egg-based IIV4-SD in preventing ILI⁽¹⁴⁾. The estimate for rVE against ILI was 36.2% (95% CI: 26.1–44.9%; $P < 0.001$) after adjusting for differences in age, sex, health status, and geographic region between the two exposure groups⁽¹⁴⁾. The result from a sensitivity analysis using propensity scores was consistent in terms of direction and statistical significance compared to the adjusted estimate (propensity-score matched rVE: 19.3%; 95% CI: 9.5–28.0%)⁽¹⁴⁾. When stratified by age, however, Flucelvax[®] Quadrivalent was statistically significantly more effective than egg-based IIV4-SD in preventing ILI in adults aged 18–64 years (propensity-score matched rVE: 26.8%; 95% CI: 14.1–37.6%; $P < 0.001$), but did not reach statistical significance in children 4–17 years of age (propensity-score matched rVE: 18.8 %; 95% CI: -53.9-57.2%) or adults 65 years of age or older (propensity-score matched rVE: -7.3 %; 95% CI: -51.6-24.0%)⁽¹⁴⁾.

III.3 Immunogenicity

Regulators in Canada, the US, and Europe accept non-inferiority immunogenicity trials that compare the hemagglutination inhibition (HI) antibody response of the new vaccine to that of an existing licensed vaccine, or placebo-controlled immunogenicity trials that assess the HI antibody response to the new vaccine. Non-inferiority and placebo-controlled immunogenicity trials are often considered sufficient by regulatory authorities when there are bridging data to correlate immunogenicity outcomes to clinical protection, or when the new vaccines are considered by the regulators to be very similar to vaccines already authorized. Serological assessments based on the geometric mean titres (GMTs) of HI antibody that are used by regulators are: GMT ratio, seroprotection rate, and seroconversion rate. The FDA has published definitions for these serological assessments and criteria for immunogenicity data necessary for influenza vaccine licensure⁽¹⁹⁾. These definitions and currently used criteria are shown in [Table 2](#). Correlates of protection that are not based on HI antibody titres have not been well established.

Two studies^(20,21) that assessed the immunogenicity of Flucelvax[®] Quad compared to different IIV3-cc (Flucelvax[®], Seqirus, Inc.) formulations were identified in this review; one study by Bart et al. (2016) was conducted with adult subjects 18 years of age and older, while the other study by Hartvickson et al. (2015) focused on pediatric subjects 4 to 17 years of age. Additional details on

the immunogenicity findings from these studies are shown in [Table 7](#). The adult randomized controlled trial (RCT) was of good quality overall. One methodological concern identified was that the study did not examine the subjects' vaccination history from previous seasons. The pediatric study was of fair quality, as subjects' HI titre was measured at different times, depending on whether the subject had been vaccinated previously or not.

Although no studies that assessed the immunogenicity of Flucelvax[®] Quad compared to egg-based IIV (trivalent or quadrivalent) were identified, non-inferiority of its trivalent predecessor, Flucelvax[®], compared to egg-based IIV3 has been established in adult and pediatric subjects⁽²²⁻²⁵⁾.

III.3.1 Immunogenicity in Adults

Bart et al. (2016) conducted a Phase III, double-blind, RCT study to assess the immunogenicity of Flucelvax[®] Quad compared to two IIV3-cc (Flucelvax[®]; Seqirus), which contained either an influenza B/Victoria or B/Yamagata lineage strain, in healthy adults ≥ 18 years of age⁽²⁰⁾. The study compared the GMT ratio, seroprotection rate, and seroconversion rate in the control and intervention groups 22 days after vaccination⁽²⁰⁾. Flucelvax[®] Quad demonstrated non-inferiority to the two IIV3-cc in the HI antibody responses against influenza A(H1N1), A(H3N2), and the B lineage contained in the trivalent vaccines, based on GMT ratio and seroconversion rates. Flucelvax[®] Quad demonstrated superiority for the influenza B lineage that was not included in the IIV3-cc⁽²⁰⁾. In a sub-analysis, Flucelvax[®] Quad also met the threshold for non-inferiority based on seroprotection rate for adults 18–64 years of age and ≥ 65 years of age⁽²⁰⁾.

III.3.2 Immunogenicity in Children

Hartvickson et al. (2015) conducted a RCT study comparing the immunogenicity of Flucelvax[®] Quad to two formulations of IIV3-cc (Flucelvax[®]), containing either an influenza B/Victoria or B/Yamagata strain, in healthy children 4–17 years of age⁽²¹⁾. Children < 9 years of age who were not previously vaccinated received two doses of influenza vaccine ($n=694$)⁽²¹⁾. The study compared the GMT, seroprotection rate, and seroconversion rate in the control and intervention groups on day 22 post-vaccination for those who had been previously vaccinated and on day 50 for those that had not been previously vaccinated⁽²¹⁾. Flucelvax[®] Quad met non-inferiority criteria for all four influenza strains contained in the IIV3-cc vaccines in healthy children aged 4–17 years⁽²¹⁾. Flucelvax[®] Quad also demonstrated superiority for both influenza B strains over the unmatched B lineage included in the comparator IIV3-cc⁽²¹⁾. Flucelvax[®] Quad also met the threshold for seroprotection for all strains⁽²¹⁾.

The immunogenicity for Flucelvax[®] Quad is supported by evidence from the clinical development program for Flucelvax[®] (trivalent formulation), which has been licensed in the US and produced using the same MDCK manufacturing platform⁽³⁶⁻³⁹⁾. Flucelvax[®] has demonstrated non-inferiority to standard egg-based IIV3 comparators, including Agrippal[®] (Seqirus; marketed in Canada as Agriflu[®]) and Fluvirin[®] (GSK), for HI antibody responses overall to any strain in adults ≥ 18 years of age and for A(H1N1) and B strains specifically, but not A(H3N2), for persons 4 to 17 years of age, based on post-vaccination GMT ratios and seroconversion rates⁽²²⁻²⁵⁾.

III.4 Safety

This review identified two peer-reviewed studies^(20, 21) that assessed the safety of Flucelvax[®] Quad; both studies were RCTs with one focused on healthy adults⁽²⁰⁾ and the other on healthy children⁽²¹⁾. For both of these studies, the safety outcomes assessed included solicited local and systemic adverse events (AE) from day 1–7 post-vaccination, serious adverse events (SAE) through 6 months after the last vaccination, and unsolicited AEs from day 1–23 post-vaccination. No studies that assessed the safety of Flucelvax[®] Quad compared to egg-based IIV (trivalent or quadrivalent) were identified in this review.

Flucelvax[®] Quadrivalent has been licensed in the US for use in adults and children 4 years or older in since 2016. Since authorization, no safety signals have been identified through routine pharmacovigilance. AE that have been reported during post-licensure use of Flucelvax[®] Quadrivalent in the US include, allergic or acute hypersensitivity reactions, nervous system disorders (syncope, presyncope, paresthesia), generalized skin reactions (pruritus, urticaria or non-specific rash), and extensive swelling of injected limb. However, a reliable estimate of the frequency of these reactions is not available and no definitive causal link to vaccination with Flucelvax[®] Quadrivalent has been established.

In addition, six peer-reviewed clinical studies^(3, 26-30) and one clinical review of cases⁽³¹⁾ that assessed the safety of Flucelvax[®] were included in this review, four of which assessed safety in adults and two of which assessed safety in children. The safety evidence for Flucelvax[®] (trivalent) was considered relevant, as although licensure for Flucelvax[®] has never been sought in Canada, Flucelvax[®] and Flucelvax[®] Quad have overlapping compositions and are produced using the same MDCK manufacturing platform. In addition to these six published studies, it should be noted that Flucelvax[®] has an established record of safety in other jurisdictions, and no new safety signals have been identified through routine pharmacovigilance in the USA or Europe where the vaccine has been licensed^(22,23,31).

Additional details on the safety evidence presented in this review are shown in [Table 8](#). No published clinical data pertaining to safety of vaccination with IIV4-cc or IIV3-cc during pregnancy is currently available to inform vaccine-associated risks.

III.4.1 Adverse Events in Adults

Bart et al. (2015) assessed the safety of Flucelvax[®] Quadrivalent in healthy adults 18–64 years of age and older adults ≥65 years of age compared to two IIV3-cc produced using the same cell culture-based manufacturing process⁽²⁰⁾. Across the three vaccine groups, a similar proportion of adults reported at least one solicited AE. The reported solicited local and systemic AE were generally mild to moderate in intensity, self-limited, and did not precipitate sequelae. There were also no major differences in the percentages of all adults (≥18 years of age) who reported unsolicited AE [IIV4-cc: 16.1%; IIV3-cc (B/Yamagata): 14.7%; IIV3-cc (B/Victoria): 16.5%]. Subgroup analyses based on age, sex, and race or ethnicity did not reveal any major variations in the AE profiles of the three vaccine groups in this study.

Solicited adverse events

Injection site pain was the most common solicited AE and was reported by 33.6% of adults in the IIV4-cc group, 27.8% in the IIV3-cc (B/Yamagata) group, and 29.4% in the IIV3-cc (B/Victoria) group⁽²⁰⁾. Although a slightly higher percentage of adults (0.2%) in the IIV4-cc group reported severe pain compared to the IIV3-cc groups (0.1%), the proportion of adults experiencing other solicited local AE was comparable between the different groups overall⁽²⁰⁾. Notably, one case of

severe ecchymosis and one case of severe induration were identified after vaccination with IIV3-cc (B/Yamagata)⁽²⁰⁾. Fatigue and headache were the most common solicited systemic AE experienced by adults in this study⁽²⁰⁾. Within the IIV4-cc group, 13.5% of subjects reported fatigue and 14.0% reported headaches. A similar proportion of adults in the IIV3-cc groups experienced fatigue (IIV3-cc (B/Yamagata): 16.3%; IIV3-cc (B/Victoria): 12.2%) and headaches (IIV3-cc (B/Yamagata): 13.4%; IIV3-cc (B/Victoria): 13.4%)⁽²⁰⁾. The incidence of severe systemic AEs was very low (<1%) overall⁽²⁰⁾. Only 15 subjects across the three vaccine groups reported experiencing fever following vaccination; however, the fever did not exceed 40°C in any of these cases⁽²⁰⁾. Across studies that assessed the safety of IIV3-cc compared to egg-based IIV3 Agrrippal® (marketed in Canada as Agriflu®), pain and redness at the injection site were the most common local adverse reactions, while headache, myalgia, malaise, and fatigue were the most common systemic adverse reactions observed across the different age groups⁽²⁷⁻²⁹⁾. Overall, the local and systemic solicited reactions as well as unsolicited AE and SAE were comparable to those typically observed with other injectable influenza vaccines⁽²⁷⁻²⁹⁾. None of the deaths or SAEs reported over the course of these IIV3-cc studies were assessed as vaccine related⁽²⁷⁻²⁹⁾.

Unsolicited adverse events and serious adverse events

The percentages of unsolicited AEs and medically attended AEs in the Bart et. al study were somewhat higher in adults ≥65 years of age compared to adults 18–64 years of age; however, these two age groups demonstrated a similar incidence of possibly vaccine-related AEs. New onset of chronic diseases (NOCD), specifically metabolic and nutritional disorders, cardiac disorders, and musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders, were reported by 4.4% of study participants; however, there were no significant differences between vaccine groups or age groups⁽²⁰⁾. No indication of new onset of neurologic disorders, increased frequency of specifically monitored SAEs, or other safety signals was identified among IIV4-cc recipients⁽²⁰⁾. Over the course of this study, 12 deaths were reported (5 in the IIV4-cc group and 7 in the IIV3-cc groups)⁽²⁰⁾. The proportion of participants who died during the course of the study was similar across vaccine groups in both the 18–64 age group (IIV4-cc: 0%; IIV3-cc (B/Yamagata): 0%; IIV3-cc (B/Victoria): 0.3%) and the ≥65 age group (IIV4-cc: 0.8%; IIV3-cc (B/Yamagata): 1.5%; IIV3-cc (B/Victoria): 0.3%). None of the SAEs or AEs leading to premature withdrawal or deaths were considered to be vaccine-related by the sponsor⁽²⁰⁾. The proportion of adults who experience unsolicited AEs and SAEs were comparable to those typically observed with other injectable influenza vaccines⁽²⁰⁾. This review also identified a case report of a 55-year-old woman with multiple comorbidities, who developed optic neuropathy and severe visual impairment in the right eye following vaccination with Flucelvax®⁽³²⁾. In this case, progressive unilateral optic neuritis occurred secondary to a systemic reaction involving a wide range of symptoms that began two days after influenza vaccination⁽³²⁾. However, it should be noted that there was no definitive link established between this very rare serious adverse reaction and vaccination with IIV3-cc⁽³²⁾.

A clinical review of post-licensure surveillance data from the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), which closely monitors anaphylaxis events related to newly licensed vaccines prerecommended for use in the US, found that the crude reporting rate for hypersensitivity reactions among reports of AEs in adults aged ≥18 years who were vaccinated with Flucelvax® (IIV3-cc) during the first two influenza seasons of distribution (2013–2014 and 2014–2015) was similar to or less than what has been observed for other influenza vaccines (12.7 cases per million doses distributed)⁽³¹⁾. Two reports of anaphylactic reactions were identified; one report met Brighton Collaboration criteria level 2, and the second report did not meet Brighton criteria but was diagnosed by the attending physician as an anaphylactic reaction. Notably, a causal association with IIV3-cc has not been established for these two anaphylaxis reports. The crude reporting rate for anaphylaxis over these 2 years was 0.4 per million doses distributed; however,

estimates for crude reporting rates for hypersensitivity reactions and anaphylaxis should be interpreted with caution given the uncertainties regarding the completeness, quality, and consistency of the data reported to VAERS and the use of doses distributed as a denominator⁽³¹⁾.

III.4.2 Adverse Events in Children

Hartvickson et al. (2015) assessed the safety of Flucelvax[®] Quad in healthy children aged 4–18 years of age compared to two IIV3-cc (Flucelvax[®]): one containing an influenza B/Yamagata lineage and one containing a B/Victoria lineage. Most solicited adverse reactions among those receiving Flucelvax[®] Quad were mild in severity, and all resolved within a few days without sequelae⁽²¹⁾. The rates and types of unsolicited AEs in children who received IIV4-cc or a comparator IIV3-cc were comparable to those typically seen with routine childhood vaccinations⁽²¹⁾.

Solicited adverse events

Across all vaccine groups in the Hartvickson et al. (2015) study, the most common solicited local AE was tenderness for children 4–5 years of age, and injection-site pain for children 6–8 and 9–17 years of age⁽²¹⁾. The proportion of children who experienced solicited local AEs were similar for the intervention and control groups across all ages⁽²¹⁾. The largest difference in proportion between vaccine groups was for children 4–5 years of age reporting local AEs; 53% of children in the IIV4-cc group reported unsolicited local AEs compared to 44% and 36% in the IIV3-cc (B/Yamagata) and IIV3-cc (B/Victoria) groups respectively⁽²¹⁾. For children <9 years of age who received a second dose, the proportions of solicited local AEs were also similar across study groups⁽²¹⁾. In general, of the children that received two doses, there was a higher proportion of local AEs after the first dose compared to the second⁽²¹⁾. The most common solicited systemic AEs were sleepiness for children 4–5 years of age, fatigue for children 6–8 years of age, and headache for children 9–17 years of age across all vaccine groups⁽²¹⁾. Among children 6–8 years of age, the proportion of children who reported solicited systemic AEs was generally higher after the first vaccination compared to the second vaccination. However, children 4–5 years of age demonstrated a 1–3% increase in the percentage of solicited systemic AEs after the second vaccine dose in each of the vaccine groups⁽²¹⁾.

Two studies^(26, 30) that assessed the safety of IIV3-cc compared to a standard egg-based IIV3 (Fluvirin[®]; licensed in the US but not available in Canada) in healthy children were identified in this review. Vesikari et al. (2012) found that the most common local AE among children 3–8 and 9–17 years of age was injection site pain, and the most common systemic AE were myalgia and headache⁽²⁶⁾. Nolan et al. (2016) assessed the safety of IIV3-cc in healthy children and adolescents 4-17 years of age stratified into two cohorts (4–8 year-olds and 9–17 year-olds)⁽³⁰⁾. Children 4-8 years of age who were not previously vaccinated received two doses of influenza vaccine⁽³⁰⁾. The proportion of children in the 4-8 year-old age group who were not previously vaccinated and experienced solicited local and systemic AEs was similar for the intervention and control groups after the second vaccination⁽³⁰⁾. For previously vaccinated children 4-17 years of age who received a single dose, the proportions of solicited local AEs were similar to not previously vaccinated children 4-8 years of age⁽³⁰⁾. Overall, no important differences in safety outcome were identified between children who had received the IIV3-cc and the egg-based IIV3^(26,30).

Unsolicited adverse events and serious adverse events

The proportion of reported unsolicited AE was similar in the three vaccine groups in the Hartvickson et al. (2015) study, and ranged from 24–27%⁽²¹⁾. Approximately 1% of children 4–17

years of age experienced any SAE in all study groups⁽²¹⁾. New onset of chronic diseases was reported in 2% of study participants in each of the vaccine groups⁽²¹⁾. No deaths were reported over the course of the study and none of the SAEs were considered to be related to the vaccine⁽²¹⁾.

Vesikari et al. (2012) and Nolan et al. (2016) assessed the safety of IIV3-cc compared to egg-based IIV3 (Fluvirin). Unsolicited AEs occurred in 1-4% of subjects across age and vaccine groups in the Vesikari et al. (2012) study and 0 to <1% were considered at least possibly related to the study vaccines. There were no deaths reported over the course of Vesikari et al. (2012) study and none of the 28 SAEs (4 during the post-vaccination period, 24 during the 6-month safety follow-up period) documented in the study were assessed as vaccine related. No deaths or vaccine-related SAEs were reported in Nolan et al. (2016) study and one of the withdrawals from the study was due to a non-serious AE.

IV. DISCUSSION

The present systematic review examined studies investigating the effectiveness, immunogenicity, and safety of Flucelvax[®] Quad, the first mammalian cell culture-based seasonal influenza vaccine to be approved for adult and pediatric use in Canada. The peer-reviewed published evidence on the effectiveness of Flucelvax[®] Quad manufactured from CVVs produced solely using the cell-derived method is sparse. Four observational VE studies, two peer-reviewed and two not peer-reviewed, were identified in this review. There was some data indicating that Flucelvax[®] Quad may potentially offer improved protection against influenza compared to egg-based IIV4 or IIV3, particularly against A(H3N2) virus infection. However, interpretation of the data from these observational studies is limited as all the analyses were conducted using data only from the 2017–2018 influenza season in the US, which was influenza A(H3N2)-dominant. Furthermore, two of the retrospective studies^(14, 16) evaluating VE utilized real-world primary care data from the EMRs of individual patients. This approach for influenza VE estimation has not yet been validated and the potential sources of bias and confounding still need to be further investigated.

Two RCTs conducted in adults and children 4 years of age and older^(20, 21) that specifically assessed the immunogenicity and safety of Flucelvax[®] Quad were identified in this review. However, both studies used Flucelvax[®] IIV3-cc (produced by Seqirus using the same cell culture-based manufacturing process) as the comparator and were conducted during the 2013–2014 influenza season, which was prior to the FDA's supplemental approval for the use of CVVs that had been isolated and propagated in MDCK cells for the manufacture of cell culture-based influenza vaccines. In both studies, Flucelvax[®] Quad demonstrated non-inferiority, based on GMT ratio and seroconversion rates, and met the threshold for seroprotection for all influenza strains contained in the IIV3-cc vaccines. The immunogenicity evidence for Flucelvax[®] Quad builds on the clinical development program of Flucelvax[®] IIV3-cc, noting that authorization for Flucelvax[®] (trivalent) has never been sought in Canada. Flucelvax[®] has demonstrated non-inferiority to licensed egg-based IIV3 comparators in for all strains in adults ≥18 years of age and A/H1N1 and B strains but not the A/H3N2 influenza strain for persons 4 to 17 years of age. Notably, Flucelvax[®] IIV3-cc was manufactured using egg-derived CVVs prior to the implementation of manufacturing methods using CVVs solely derived from MDCK cells.

This review also examined studies^(3, 26-30) that assessed the safety of Flucelvax[®], which is a trivalent vaccine produced using the same cell culture-based manufacturing platform, to supplement the evidence base for safety. These studies found that IIV-cc are a safe, well-tolerated, and immunogenic alternative to conventional egg-based influenza vaccines for children

and adults. There is a theoretical concern that inactivated influenza vaccines produced in canine kidney cells (MDCK 33016-PF) may cause adverse reactions in individuals with dog allergy. This issue has been investigated in two in vitro studies, which used biological assays to evaluate the potential allergenicity of MDCK cell-based vaccines^(33,34). The results of these studies suggest that influenza vaccines produced in MDCK cells do not have the potential to trigger hypersensitivity reactions in individuals with documented allergies associated with dogs. In addition, there has been no signal of an elevated risk of severe allergic reactions as compared to egg-based influenza vaccines identified through IIV-cc clinical trials or post-market safety surveillance^(33,34).

Influenza vaccine production using mammalian cell culture-based technology may offer enhanced manufacturing scalability, sterility, timeliness, and flexibility compared to traditional egg-based manufacturing platforms. Implementation of cell culture-based influenza vaccine technologies and other alternatives to egg-based methods will also enable diversification of vaccine manufacturing platforms to overcome influenza vaccine supply vulnerabilities and improve vaccine-production capacity. Additionally, research has indicated that influenza A(H3N2) viruses can undergo changes that decrease antigenic relatedness to wild-type, circulating viruses when they are grown in eggs, and that certain egg-adaptive mutations may negatively affect the immunogenicity, efficacy, and effectiveness of standard egg-based influenza vaccines, especially during influenza A(H3N2)-dominant seasons^(4,10,35-39). Cell culture-based influenza vaccines solely derived from cell culture-based CVVs are insulated from such egg-adaptive changes and have the potential to provide enhanced protection in some seasons compared to standard egg-based influenza vaccines^(3,6,10). Nevertheless, adaptation in cell culture-based influenza vaccines needs to be further investigated given the potential for mutations in the genetic segments of HA and NA proteins resulting of serial passaging in MDCK cells^(40,41). Therefore, ongoing monitoring of vaccine effectiveness, immunogenicity, and safety will be important to compare prior and future seasons, across influenza subtypes, and overall VE for each vaccine type. A more robust, comprehensive and consistent body of evidence, including data on comorbidities, pregnant women, health status, and other potential confounders⁽⁴²⁾, is also needed to evaluate the relative effectiveness and safety of Flucelvax[®] Quad compared to other injectable influenza vaccines.

V. RECOMMENDATION

The following section outlines the recommendation that NACI has made regarding the use of Flucelvax[®] Quad in adults and children. Additional information on the strength of NACI recommendations and the grading of evidence is available in [Table 3](#).

The following recommendation for Flucelvax[®] Quad supplements NACI's overarching recommendation for influenza vaccination, which is available in the NACI Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Statement. The overarching NACI recommendation for influenza vaccination is that an age appropriate influenza vaccine should be offered annually to anyone 6 months of age and older (Strong NACI Recommendation), noting product-specific contraindications.

1. NACI recommends that Flucelvax[®] Quad may be considered among the IIV4 offered to adults and children ≥9 years of age (Discretionary NACI Recommendation)

- **NACI concludes that there is fair evidence to recommend vaccination of adults and children ≥9 years of age with Flucelvax[®] Quad (Grade B Evidence).**

Summary of Evidence and Rationale

- There is fair evidence that Flucelvax[®] Quad is effective, safe, and has non-inferior immunogenicity to comparable vaccines, based on direct evidence in adults and children ≥9 years of age.
- There is limited peer-reviewed evidence on the effectiveness, immunogenicity, and safety of Flucelvax[®] Quad manufactured using fully cell-derived viruses.
- There is some evidence that, overall, Flucelvax[®] Quad may be more effective than egg-based trivalent or quadrivalent influenza vaccines against non-laboratory confirmed influenza-related outcomes but there is insufficient evidence for laboratory-confirmed outcomes. The clinical significance and directness of the evidence provided by influenza-related outcomes, which are surrogate measures of influenza activity, and the validity of observational studies using EMRs for influenza vaccine effectiveness estimation remain uncertain and need to be further evaluated
- Although some data suggests that IIV4-cc may be more effective against laboratory-confirmed influenza A(H3N2) virus infection than egg-based IIV, there was no consistent and statistically significant difference in effectiveness identified for adults or children vaccinated with IIV4-cc compared to egg-based IIV. Therefore, no firm conclusions can be drawn at this time, and NACI will continue to monitor this issue.
- All studies that assessed effectiveness were conducted in the US during the same season (2017–2018), which was influenza A(H3N2)-dominant. As influenza seasons can vary widely from year to year, further evidence on effectiveness gathered during influenza seasons with different circulating viruses is needed before a conclusion on the relative effectiveness can be made.
- NACI will continue to monitor the evidence related to cell-culture based influenza vaccines and will update this supplemental statement as needed and as data on Flucelvax[®] Quad from several different influenza seasons accumulates.

An updated summary of the characteristics of influenza vaccines available in Canada for the 2020–2021 influenza season can be found in Appendix B. For complete prescribing information,

readers should consult the product monograph available through [Health Canada's Drug Product Database](#).

TABLES

Table 2. Serological Assay Definitions and Thresholds for Protection Specified by the United States Food and Drug Administration⁽¹⁹⁾

Serological assay	Definition	Threshold
<i>GMT ratio</i>	Ratio of GMT post-vaccination of licensed vaccine to GMT post-vaccination of new vaccine	Non-inferiority: The upper bound of the two-sided 95% CI on the ratio of the GMTs should not exceed 1.5.
<i>Seroprotection</i>	Proportion of subjects achieving an HI titre of $\geq 1:40$ post-vaccination	Placebo-controlled: Lower limit of the two-sided 95% CI for the percent of subjects achieving seroprotection should meet or exceed 70% (for adults <65 and children) or 60% (for adults ≥ 65)
<i>Seroconversion</i>	Proportion of subjects achieving an increase from $\leq 1:10$ HI titre pre-vaccination to $\geq 1:40$ post-vaccination or achieving at least four-fold rise in HI titres	Non-inferiority: Upper limit of the two-sided 95% CI on the difference between the seroconversion rates (rate of licensed vaccine – rate of new vaccine) should not exceed 10 percentage points. Placebo-controlled: Lower limit of the two-sided 95% CI for the percent of subjects achieving seroprotection should meet or exceed 40% (for adults <65 and children) or 30% (for adults ≥ 65)

Abbreviations: CI: confidence interval, GMT: geometric mean titre, HI: hemagglutination inhibition

Table 3. NACI Recommendations: Strength of Recommendation and Grade of Evidence

STRENGTH OF NACI RECOMMENDATION	GRADE OF EVIDENCE
<i>Based on factors not isolated to strength of evidence (e.g. public health need)</i>	<i>Based on assessment of the body of evidence</i>
<p>Strong “should/should not be offered”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Known/Anticipated advantages outweigh known/anticipated disadvantages (“should”), OR Known/Anticipated disadvantages outweigh known/anticipated advantages (“should not”) ➤ Implication: A strong recommendation applies to most populations/individuals and should be followed unless a clear and compelling rationale for an alternative approach is present 	A - <i>good evidence</i> to recommend
	B – <i>fair evidence</i> to recommend
	C – <i>conflicting evidence</i> , however other factors may influence decision-making
	D – <i>fair evidence</i> to recommend against
	E – <i>good evidence</i> to recommend against
	I – <i>insufficient evidence</i> (in quality or quantity), however other factors may influence decision-making
<p>Discretionary “may be considered”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Known/Anticipated advantages closely balanced with known/anticipated disadvantages, OR uncertainty in the evidence of advantages and disadvantages exists ➤ Implication: A discretionary recommendation may be considered for some populations/individuals in some circumstances. Alternative approaches may be reasonable 	A - <i>good evidence</i> to recommend
	B – <i>fair evidence</i> to recommend
	C – <i>conflicting evidence</i> , however other factors may influence decision-making
	D – <i>fair evidence</i> to recommend against
	E – <i>good evidence</i> to recommend against
	I – <i>insufficient evidence</i> (in quality or quantity), however other factors may influence decision-making

Table 4. Ranking Individual Studies: Levels of Evidence Based on Research Design

Level	Description
I	Evidence from randomized controlled trial(s).
II-1	Evidence from controlled trial(s) without randomization.
II-2	Evidence from cohort or case-control analytic studies, preferably from more than one centre or research group using clinical outcome measures of vaccine efficacy.
II-3	Evidence obtained from multiple time series with or without the intervention. Dramatic results in uncontrolled experiments (such as the results of the introduction of penicillin treatment in the 1940s) could also be regarded as this type of evidence.
III	Opinions of respected authorities, based on clinical experience, descriptive studies and case reports, or reports of expert committees.

Table 5. Ranking Individual Studies: Quality (internal validity) Rating of Evidence

Quality Rating	Description
Good	A study (including meta-analyses or systematic reviews) that meets all design- specific criteria* well.
Fair	A study (including meta-analyses or systematic reviews) that does not meet (or it is not clear that it meets) at least one design-specific criterion* but has no known "fatal flaw".
Poor	A study (including meta-analyses or systematic reviews) that has at least one design-specific* "fatal flaw", or an accumulation of lesser flaws to the extent that the results of the study are not deemed able to inform recommendations.

*General design specific criteria are outlined in Harris RP, Helfand M, Woolf SH, Lohr KN, Mulrow CD, Teutsch SM, Atkins D. Current methods of the US Preventive Services Task Force: A review of the process. Am J Prev Med. 2001;20(3):21-35.⁽¹⁰⁾

Table 6. Summary of Evidence Related to the Effectiveness of Flucelvax® Quad

STUDY DETAILS					SUMMARY																																															
Study	Vaccine	Study Design	Participants	Summary of Key Findings	Level of Evidence	Quality																																														
<p>DeMarcus L, Shoubaki L, Federinko S. <i>Comparing influenza vaccine effectiveness between cell-derived and egg-derived vaccines, 2017–2018 influenza season.</i> Vaccine. 2019 Jul 9;37(30):4015-4021.</p>	<p>IIV4-cc (subunit)</p>	<p>Test-negative case-control study</p> <p>2017–2018 influenza season</p> <p>Funded by US Department of Defense (DoD) Global Emerging Infections Surveillance (DoD-GEIS) Respiratory Focus Area through the Department of Defense Global Respiratory Pathogen Surveillance Program</p> <p>80% of specimens were collected from the US, 20% originated from Europe,</p>	<p>United States DoD healthcare beneficiaries ≥6 months– ≤94 years of age (excluding service members) who presented to a military treatment facility with an outpatient encounter for ILI symptoms.</p> <p>Mean age: 24 years</p> <p>Median age: 13 years</p> <p>Mode: 1 year old</p> <p>57% female (n = 2307)</p> <p>1757 Cases (laboratory confirmed): 531 vaccinated (192 (36.15%) received cell-derived vaccine and 339 (63.84%) egg-derived vaccine)</p> <p>2280 Controls: 977 vaccinated (314 (32.13%) received cell-derived vaccine</p>	<p>Adjusted VE¹ against laboratory-confirmed influenza infection estimates for individuals vaccinated with cell-derived vaccine or egg-derived vaccine compared to unvaccinated controls stratified by subtype and beneficiary group.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Subtype</th> <th rowspan="2">Population</th> <th colspan="2">Adjusted VE estimate (95% CI), %</th> </tr> <tr> <th>IIV4-cc (subunit)</th> <th>Egg-based IIV4 (split virus)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="3">A²</td> <td>All dependents</td> <td>50 (37-61)</td> <td>54 (44-62)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Children</td> <td>51 (26-67)</td> <td>60 (49-69)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adults</td> <td>54 (37-67)</td> <td>37 (15-53)</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="3">B</td> <td>All dependents</td> <td>40 (21-55)</td> <td>53 (41-63)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Children</td> <td>22 (-17-47)</td> <td>49 (32-61)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adults</td> <td>54 (31-69)</td> <td>61 (40-75)</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="3">A(H1N1) pdm09</td> <td>All dependents</td> <td>61 (38-76)</td> <td>86 (78-91)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Children</td> <td>56 (15-77)</td> <td>88 (80-93)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adults</td> <td>71 (44-85)</td> <td>81 (56-92)</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="3">A(H3N2)</td> <td>All dependents</td> <td>48 (30-61)</td> <td>35 (20-48)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Children</td> <td>47 (14-67)</td> <td>40 (21-54)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adults</td> <td>47</td> <td>19</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Subtype	Population	Adjusted VE estimate (95% CI), %		IIV4-cc (subunit)	Egg-based IIV4 (split virus)	A ²	All dependents	50 (37-61)	54 (44-62)	Children	51 (26-67)	60 (49-69)	Adults	54 (37-67)	37 (15-53)	B	All dependents	40 (21-55)	53 (41-63)	Children	22 (-17-47)	49 (32-61)	Adults	54 (31-69)	61 (40-75)	A(H1N1) pdm09	All dependents	61 (38-76)	86 (78-91)	Children	56 (15-77)	88 (80-93)	Adults	71 (44-85)	81 (56-92)	A(H3N2)	All dependents	48 (30-61)	35 (20-48)	Children	47 (14-67)	40 (21-54)	Adults	47	19	<p>II-2</p>	<p>Good</p>
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Study	Vaccine	Study Design	Participants	Summary of Key Findings			Level of Evidence	Quality																																		
		the Middle East, and the Pacific Region	(Flucelvax Quadrivalent®) and 663 (67.86%) received egg-derived vaccine (Flulaval® Tetra, Fluarix® Quadrivalent)	Overall ³	All dependents	(25-63) 46 (³³ -56)	(-11-41) 53 (45-60)																																			
					Children	36 (12-54)	55 (45-64)																																			
					Adults	52 (36-64)	51 (35-63)																																			
				¹ To calculate VE, the odds of influenza-positive (cases) to influenza-negative (controls) patients were compared among vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. ² Includes all influenza A specimens (A/unsubtyped, A(H1N1)pdm09, A(H3N2)) ³ Includes all influenza types and subtypes (A/unsubtyped, A(H1N1)pdm09, A(H3N2), B) Adjusted OR for individuals vaccinated with cell-derived vaccine (subunit) compared to egg-derived vaccine (split virus) stratified by subtype and beneficiary group:																																						
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<p>Izurieta HS, Chillarige Y, Kelman J, Wei Y, Lu Y, Xu W, Lu M, Pratt D, Chu S, Wernecke M, MaCurdy T, Forshee R. <i>Relative effectiveness of cell-cultured and egg-based influenza vaccines among elderly persons in the United States, 2017-18, 2017-18.</i> J Infect Dis. 2019 Sep 13; 220(8):1255-1264.</p>	IIV4-cc (subunit)	<p>Retrospective cohort</p> <p>US</p> <p>2017–2018 influenza season</p> <p>Funded by the US FDA</p>	<p>Medicare beneficiaries ≥65 years of age</p> <p>58.6% female</p> <p>IIV4-cc (Flucelvax Quadrivalent®): n= 653,099)</p> <p>Egg-based IIV4-SD (Afluria® Tetra): n=1,844,745</p> <p>Egg-based IIV3-SD: n= 8,449,508</p> <p>IIV3-Adj (Fluad®): n= 1,465,747</p> <p>IIV3-HD (Fluzone® High-Dose): n= 1,007,082</p>	<p>*(subunit) rVE estimates from the 2-way comparison between IIV4-cc and IIV4-SD:</p> <p>Office visits:10.5%; 95% CI: 6.8%–14.0%) Hospital encounters:10.0%; 95% CI: 7.0%–13.0%)</p> <p>Pairwise, adjusted rVE estimates for influenza-related hospital encounters from a 5-way analysis:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Comparator</th> <th>rVE ** (95% CI), %</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Egg-based IIV4-SD (split virus)</td> <td>11.0 *** (7.9-14.0)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Egg-based IIV3-SD (split virus)</td> <td>10.8*** (7.4-14.1)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IIV3-Adj (subunit)</td> <td>7.5*** (4.1–10.7)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IIV3-HD (split virus)</td> <td>2.3 (–0.8- 5.3)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>* Hospital encounters were defined as inpatient hospitalizations and emergency department visits in which International Classification of Diseases, Tenth revision, Clinical Modification, code for influenza was listed. **Compared to persons vaccinated with IIV4-cc *** Significant at p ≤ 0.05.</p> <p>Pairwise, adjusted rVE estimates for influenza-related office visits from a 5-way analysis:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Comparison</th> <th>rVE * (95% CI), %</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Egg-based IIV4-SD (split virus)</td> <td>5.7 (1.9–9.4)*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Egg-based IIV3-SD (split virus)</td> <td>1.0 (–3.5 to 5.3)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Comparator	rVE ** (95% CI), %	Egg-based IIV4-SD (split virus)	11.0 *** (7.9-14.0)	Egg-based IIV3-SD (split virus)	10.8*** (7.4-14.1)	IIV3-Adj (subunit)	7.5*** (4.1–10.7)	IIV3-HD (split virus)	2.3 (–0.8- 5.3)	Comparison	rVE * (95% CI), %	Egg-based IIV4-SD (split virus)	5.7 (1.9–9.4)*	Egg-based IIV3-SD (split virus)	1.0 (–3.5 to 5.3)	II-2	Good
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<p>Boikos C, Sylvester G, Sampalis J, Mansi J. <i>Effectiveness of the Cell Culture-and Egg-Derived, Seasonal Influenza Vaccine during the 2017-2018 Northern Hemisphere Influenza Season.</i> Poster presented at: Canadian Immunization Conference (CIC) 2018; Dec 4-6, 2018 Ottawa, ON, Canada.</p>	IIV4-cc (subunit)	<p>Retrospective cohort</p> <p>2017–2018 influenza season</p> <p>Funded by Seqirus, Inc.</p>	<p>Patients ≥4 years of age from US electronic medical record (EMR) dataset</p> <p>IIV4-cc group: n=92,192; median age: 59</p> <p>Egg-based IIV4 group: n=1,255,983; median age: 41</p>	<p>Propensity-score matched rVE estimate for ILI (as defined by the US AFHSC Code Source B) for persons vaccinated with IIV4-cc (subunit) versus egg-based IIV4:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age group</th> <th>rVE estimate (95% CI), %</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Overall cohort</td> <td>36.2** (26.1-44.9)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4-17</td> <td>18.8 (-53.9-57.2)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18-64</td> <td>26.8** (14.1-37.6)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>65+</td> <td>-7.3 (-51.6-24.0)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>33.9** (31.5-36.2)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adjusted*</td> <td>36.2** (26.1-44.9)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*Adjusted for age, sex, health status, and geographic region ** Significant with p<0.001</p>	Age group	rVE estimate (95% CI), %	Overall cohort	36.2** (26.1-44.9)	4-17	18.8 (-53.9-57.2)	18-64	26.8** (14.1-37.6)	65+	-7.3 (-51.6-24.0)	Total	33.9** (31.5-36.2)	Adjusted*	36.2** (26.1-44.9)	II-2	n/a (Study recently accepted for peer-reviewed publication. At the time of writing, this study was only available as conference poster; unable to evaluate)
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Klein NP, Fireman B, Goddard K, Zerbo O, Asher J, Zhou J, King J, Lewis N. LB15. Vaccine Effectiveness of Flucelvax Relative to Inactivated Influenza Vaccine During the 2017–18 Influenza Season in Northern California. Open Forum Infect Dis. 2018;5(Suppl 1):S764.	IIV4-cc (subunit)	Retrospective cohort US 2017–2018 influenza season No funding declared	Kaiser Permanente Northern California members aged 4–64 years IIV4-cc group (subunit): n= 932,874 egg-based IIV group: n= 84,440	Adjusted rVE (95% CI) against laboratory-confirmed influenza A (H3N2) infection in individuals vaccinated with IIV4-cc versus egg-based IIV: 6.8% (11.2-21.9; P = 0.43) Adjusted VE (95% CI) against all laboratory-confirmed* influenza: <table border="1" data-bbox="1081 625 1633 722"> <thead> <tr> <th>Group</th> <th>VE (95% CI), %</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>IIV4-cc</td> <td>30.2 (17.1-41.3)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Egg-based IIV**</td> <td>17.9 (12.1-23.3)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> * Positive by Polymerase chain reaction (PCR). ** 86.2% received egg-based IIV3.	Group	VE (95% CI), %	IIV4-cc	30.2 (17.1-41.3)	Egg-based IIV**	17.9 (12.1-23.3)	II-2	n/a (Study published as conference poster; unable to evaluate quality of evidence)
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Abbreviations: AFHSC; Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center; CI: confidence interval; HD: high-dose; IIV: inactivated influenza vaccine; IIV3-Adj: adjuvanted trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine; IIV4-cc: cell-culture based quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine IIV3-cc: cell-culture based trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine; IIV3-HD: high-dose trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine; IIV3-SD: standard-dose trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine; IIV4-SD: standard-dose quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine; ILI: influenza-like illness; IPTW: inverse probability of treatment weighting GMT: geometric mean titre; n/a: not applicable; OR: odds ratio; RCT: randomized controlled trial; rVE: relative vaccine effectiveness; US: United States.

Table 7. Summary of Evidence Related to the Immunogenicity of Flucelvax® Quad

STUDY DETAILS					SUMMARY																														
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<p>Bart S., Cannon K., Herrington D., Mills R., Forleo-Neto E., Lindert K., Abdul MA. <i>Immunogenicity and safety of a cell culture-based quadrivalent influenza vaccine in adults: A phase III, double-blind, multicenter, randomized, non-inferiority study.</i> Hum Vaccines Immunother. 2016;12(9):2278-88.</p> <p>ClinicalTrials.gov <i>Safety and Immunogenicity of Three Influenza Vaccines Adults Ages 18 and Older</i> NCT 01992094</p>	IIV4-cc (subunit)	RCT US Multicentre (40 sites) 2013–2014 influenza season Funded by Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics, Inc. (currently operating as Seqirus, Inc.)	Healthy adults 18 years of age and older 54.8% female Mean age: 57 years Group 1: 1335 adults vaccinated with IIV4-cc (subunit) Group 2: 676 adults vaccinated with Flucelvax® (IIV3-cc, B/Yamagata) (subunit) Group 3: 669 adults vaccinated with Flucelvax® (IIV3-cc, B/Victoria) (subunit)	<p>GMT ratio 22 days post-vaccination (Group 2 or Group 3 divided by Group 1):</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Strain</th> <th>Estimate (95% CI)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A(H1N1)</td> <td>1.0 (0.9-1.1)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A(H3N2)</td> <td>1.0 (0.9-1.1)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B/Yam</td> <td>0.9 (0.8-1.0)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B/Vic</td> <td>0.9 (0.8-1.0)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Difference in seroconversion rate three weeks (day 22) post-vaccination (Group 2 or Group 3 –Group 1):</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Strain</th> <th>Estimate (95% CI)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A(H1N1)</td> <td>-0.5 (-5.3-4.2)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A(H3N2)</td> <td>-2.7 (-7.2-1.9)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B/Yam</td> <td>-1.8 (-6.2-2.8)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B/Vic</td> <td>-4.4 (-8.9-0.2)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>HI antibody responses of IIV4-cc compared to IIV3-cc (B/Yam) and IIV3-cc (B/Vic) for the unmatched B strain, 22 days after vaccination in terms of the differences in percentages of subjects achieving seroconversion and the between group GMT ratios (FAS immunogenicity set):</p> <p>HI seroconversion rate three weeks (day 22) post-vaccination:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Strain</th> <th>Estimate (95% CI), %</th> <th>Vaccine Group Diff (95% CI), %</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>B/Yam</td> <td>39.7 (37.0-42.4)</td> <td>-21.7 (-25.5,-17.7)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B/Vic</td> <td>36.6 (34.0-39.3)</td> <td>-19.4 (-23.2,-15.5)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Strain	Estimate (95% CI)	A(H1N1)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	A(H3N2)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	B/Yam	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	B/Vic	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	Strain	Estimate (95% CI)	A(H1N1)	-0.5 (-5.3-4.2)	A(H3N2)	-2.7 (-7.2-1.9)	B/Yam	-1.8 (-6.2-2.8)	B/Vic	-4.4 (-8.9-0.2)	Strain	Estimate (95% CI), %	Vaccine Group Diff (95% CI), %	B/Yam	39.7 (37.0-42.4)	-21.7 (-25.5,-17.7)	B/Vic	36.6 (34.0-39.3)	-19.4 (-23.2,-15.5)	I	Good
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<p>Hartvickson R., Cruz M., Ervin J., Brandon D., Forleo-Neto E., Dagnev A.F., Chandra R., Lindert K.,Mateen A.A. <i>Non-inferiority of mammalian cell-derived quadrivalent subunit influenza virus vaccines compared to trivalent subunit influenza virus vaccines in healthy children: A phase III randomized, multicenter, double-blind clinical trial.</i> Int J Infect Dis. 2015;41:65-72.</p> <p>ClinicalTrial.gov <i>Safety and Immunogenicity of Three Influenza Vaccines in Children Aged 4 Years Old to Less than 18 Years Old</i> NCT01992107</p>	IIV4-cc (subunit)	RCT US Multicentre November 2013 to August 2014 Funded by Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics, Inc. (currently operating as Seqirus, Inc.)	Healthy children ≥4 to <18 years; stratified into two age cohorts: ≥4 to <9 years and ≥9 to <18 years. Within the ≥4 to <9 years cohort, subjects were further stratified as previously vaccinated and not previously vaccinated. Group 1: 1159 children vaccinated with Flucelvax Quadrivalent® (819 previously vaccinated, 340 not previously vaccinated) 48% female Group 2: 593 children vaccinated with Flucelvax® IIV3-cc (B/Victoria) (420 previously vaccinated, 173 not previously vaccinated) 48% female Group 3:	GMT ratio in children aged 4-18 years of age, 3 week post-vaccination with last dose of vaccine: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Strain</th> <th colspan="2">Estimate (95% CI)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>IIV4-cc (subunit)</th> <th>Matched IIV3-cc (subunit)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>B/Vic</td> <td>6.15 (5.76–6.57)</td> <td>2.38 (2.17–2.61)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B/Yam</td> <td>2.12 (1.91–2.37)</td> <td>8.16 (7.56–8.82)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> Seroconversion rate in children aged 4-17 years, 3 weeks post-vaccination with last dose of vaccine: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Strain</th> <th colspan="2">Estimate (95% CI), %</th> </tr> <tr> <th>IIV4-cc (subunit)</th> <th>IIV3-cc* (subunit)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A(H1N1)</td> <td>73 (70–76)</td> <td>74 (70–77)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A(H3N2)</td> <td>47 (44–50)</td> <td>51 (47–55)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B/Vic</td> <td>67 (64–70)</td> <td>66 (61–69)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B/Yam</td> <td>73 (70–76)</td> <td>72 (68–76)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> *Data presented for influenza B strains is from the IIV3-cc containing the matched B lineage. Seroprotection rate in children aged 4-17 years, 3 weeks post-vaccination with last dose of vaccine: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Strain</th> <th colspan="2">Estimate (95% CI), %</th> </tr> <tr> <th>IIV4-cc (subunit)</th> <th>IIV3-cc* (subunit)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A(H1N1)</td> <td>99 (98–100)</td> <td>99 (98–100)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A(H3N2)</td> <td>100 (99–100)</td> <td>99 (98–100)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B/Vic</td> <td>92 (91–94)</td> <td>93 (90–95)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B/Yam</td> <td>91 (89–93)</td> <td>91 (88–93)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> *Data presented for influenza B strains is from the IIV3-cc containing the matched B lineage.	Strain	Estimate (95% CI)		IIV4-cc (subunit)	Matched IIV3-cc (subunit)	B/Vic	6.15 (5.76–6.57)	2.38 (2.17–2.61)	B/Yam	2.12 (1.91–2.37)	8.16 (7.56–8.82)	Strain	Estimate (95% CI), %		IIV4-cc (subunit)	IIV3-cc* (subunit)	A(H1N1)	73 (70–76)	74 (70–77)	A(H3N2)	47 (44–50)	51 (47–55)	B/Vic	67 (64–70)	66 (61–69)	B/Yam	73 (70–76)	72 (68–76)	Strain	Estimate (95% CI), %		IIV4-cc (subunit)	IIV3-cc* (subunit)	A(H1N1)	99 (98–100)	99 (98–100)	A(H3N2)	100 (99–100)	99 (98–100)	B/Vic	92 (91–94)	93 (90–95)	B/Yam	91 (89–93)	91 (88–93)	I	Fair
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Study	Vaccine	Study Design	Participants	Summary of Key Findings	Level of Evidence	Quality											
			581 children vaccinated with Flucelvax® IIV3-cc (B/Yamagata) (400 previously vaccinated, 181 not previously vaccinated) 49% female	Difference in seroconversion rate (IIV3-cc – IIV4-cc) in children aged 4-17 years, 3 weeks post-vaccination with last dose of vaccine: <table border="1" data-bbox="1081 407 1705 537"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Strain</th> <th colspan="2">Estimate (95% CI)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>IIV4-cc (subunit)</th> <th>IIV3-cc* (subunit)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>B/Vic</td> <td>67 (64–70)</td> <td>33 (29–37)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B/Yam</td> <td>73 (70–76)</td> <td>26 (23–30)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> *Data presented for influenza B strains is from the IIV3-cc containing the matched B lineage.	Strain	Estimate (95% CI)		IIV4-cc (subunit)	IIV3-cc* (subunit)	B/Vic	67 (64–70)	33 (29–37)	B/Yam	73 (70–76)	26 (23–30)		
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Abbreviations: CI: confidence interval; GMT: geometric mean titre; n/a: not applicable; IIV: inactivated influenza vaccine; IIV3-cc: cell-culture based trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine; IIV4-cc: cell-culture based quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine; RCT: randomized controlled trial; US: United States

Table 8. Summary of Evidence Related to the Safety of [®] Quad and Flucelvax[®]

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<p>Bart S., Cannon K., Herrington D., Mills R., Forleo-Neto E., Lindert K.,Abdul MA. <i>Immunogenicity and safety of a cell culture-based quadrivalent influenza vaccine in adults: A phase III, double-blind, multicenter, randomized, non-inferiority study.</i> Hum Vaccines Immunother. 2016;12(9):2278-88.</p> <p>ClinicalTrials.gov <i>Safety and Immunogenicity of Three Influenza Vaccines Adults Ages 18 and Older</i> NCT 01992094</p>	<p>IIV4-cc (subunit)</p>	<p>RCT US Multi-centre 2013–2014 influenza season Funded by Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics, Inc. (currently operating as Seqirus, Inc.)</p>	<p>Healthy adults 18 years of age and older 54.8% female Mean age: 57 years Group 1: 1335 adults vaccinated with IIV4-cc (subunit) Group 2: 676 adults vaccinated with IIV3-cc (B/Yamagata) (subunit) Group 3: 669 adults vaccinated with IIV3-cc (B/Victoria) (subunit)</p>	<p>Proportion of the most commonly reported solicited local and systemic AEs in adults ≥18 years of age reporting between day 1 through day 7 after vaccination:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" rowspan="2">AE</th> <th colspan="3">Proportion (%)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>IIV4-cc</th> <th>IIV3-cc (B/Yam)</th> <th>IIV3-cc (B/Vic)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Local*</td> <td>Injection site pain</td> <td>33.6</td> <td>27.8</td> <td>29.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Systemic</td> <td>Fatigue</td> <td>13.5</td> <td>16.3</td> <td>12.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Headache</td> <td>14.0</td> <td>13.4</td> <td>13.4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*1 case of severe ecchymosis and 1 case of severe induration was identified in the TIV1c group</p> <p>Reported solicited local and systemic AEs were generally mild to moderate in intensity. Across all 3 vaccine groups, a similar percentage of subjects reported at least one solicited AE.</p> <p>Proportion of adults reporting any solicited AEs by age:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Age group</th> <th colspan="3">Proportion (%)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>IIV4-cc</th> <th>IIV3-cc (B/Yam)</th> <th>IIV3-cc (B/Vic)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>18-64</td> <td>61.8</td> <td>56.7</td> <td>59.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>≥65</td> <td>41.3</td> <td>39.1</td> <td>43.2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Rates of any solicited AEs by sex:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Sex</th> <th colspan="3">Proportion (%)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>IIV4-cc</th> <th>IIV3-cc (B/Yam)</th> <th>IIV3-cc (B/Vic)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Female</td> <td>57.9</td> <td>54.1</td> <td>54.2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	AE		Proportion (%)			IIV4-cc	IIV3-cc (B/Yam)	IIV3-cc (B/Vic)	Local*	Injection site pain	33.6	27.8	29.4	Systemic	Fatigue	13.5	16.3	12.2	Headache	14.0	13.4	13.4	Age group	Proportion (%)			IIV4-cc	IIV3-cc (B/Yam)	IIV3-cc (B/Vic)	18-64	61.8	56.7	59.6	≥65	41.3	39.1	43.2	Sex	Proportion (%)			IIV4-cc	IIV3-cc (B/Yam)	IIV3-cc (B/Vic)	Female	57.9	54.1	54.2	<p>I</p>	<p>Good</p>
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<p>Ambrozaitis A, Groth N, Bugarini R, Sparacio V, Podda A, Lattanzi M. <i>A novel mammalian cell-culture technique for consistent production of a well-tolerated and immunogenic trivalent subunit influenza vaccine.</i> Vaccine. 2009;27(43):6022-9</p>	IIV3-cc (subunit)	<p>RCT</p> <p>Lithuania</p> <p>Multi-centre</p> <p>2005-2006 influenza season</p> <p>No funding declared</p>	<p>Healthy adults 18-60 years of age</p> <p>61.0% female</p> <p>Mean age:32.5</p> <p>Total participants: 1200</p> <p>IIV3-cc (3 consecutive production lots: A,B,C): n=1028</p> <p>Egg-based IIV3 (Agrippal®, Seqirus, Inc.; marketed in Canada as Agriflu®):</p>	<p>Proportion of local and systemic reactions in adults 18-60 years of age reporting between day 1 through day 7 after vaccination:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">AE</th> <th colspan="3">Proportion (%)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>IIV3-cc Lot A+B+C (subunit)</th> <th>Egg-based IIV3 (subunit)</th> <th>P value*</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total local reactions</td> <td>29</td> <td>25</td> <td>0.35</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ecchymosis</td> <td>4</td> <td>6</td> <td>0.26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Erythema</td> <td>20</td> <td>18</td> <td>0.66</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Induration</td> <td>11</td> <td>11</td> <td>0.90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Swelling</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>0.96</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pain</td> <td>12</td> <td>8</td> <td>0.19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total systemic reactions</td> <td>25</td> <td>23</td> <td>0.54</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	AE	Proportion (%)			IIV3-cc Lot A+B+C (subunit)	Egg-based IIV3 (subunit)	P value*	Total local reactions	29	25	0.35	Ecchymosis	4	6	0.26	Erythema	20	18	0.66	Induration	11	11	0.90	Swelling	7	8	0.96	Pain	12	8	0.19	Total systemic reactions	25	23	0.54	I	Good
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			n=171	Chills	6	7	0.73	
				Malaise	13	12	0.79	
				Myalgia	6	5	0.73	
				Arthralgia	3	1	0.30**	
				Headache	14	12	0.47	
				Sweating	4	3	0.41	
				Fatigue	13	11	0.55	
				Fever(≥38°C)	1	2	0.44**	
				Total other indicators of reactogenicity	5	7	0.17	
				Stayed at home due to reaction	3	2	1.00**	
				Analgesic/antipyretic medication used	3	6	0.10	
				* value from Pearson’s chi-square test for vaccine group differences (IIV3-cc total versus egg-based IIV3). ** If any expected cell count was <1 or if >20% of the cells have an expected cell count <5, then the Fisher exact test was used. One death was reported during the 6-month safety follow-up period; 1 subject in the IIV3-cc group committed suicide. None of the deaths or SAEs reported over the course of the study were determined to be related to the IIV3-cc vaccine.				
Szymczakiewicz-Multanowska A, Groth, N, Bugarini R, Lattanzi M, Casula D, Hilbert A, Tsai T, Podda A. Safety and Immunogenicity of a Novel Influenza Subunit Vaccine Produced in	IIV3-cc (subunit)	Phase III, observer blind RCT Poland Multi-centre	Healthy adults 18 years of age and older 58.0% female Mean age: 18-60 age group: 38.7	Proportion of participants who received IIV3-cc or egg-based IIV3 reporting solicited local or systemic reactions by age group between day 1 through day 7 after vaccination:			I	
				Age group	AE	Proportion (%)		
				18-60	Solicited local or systemic reactions	40		

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<p><i>Mammalian Cell Culture.</i> J Infect Dis. 2009;200(6): 841-8</p> <p>ClinicalTrials.gov <i>Safety and Immunogenicity of a Cell Culture-derived Influenza Vaccine in Healthy Adults and Elderly</i> NCT00492063</p>		<p>2004-2005 influenza season</p> <p>Funded by Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics, Inc. (currently operating as Seqirus Inc.)</p>	<p>>60 age group: 69.1</p> <p>Total participants analyzed:</p> <p>IIV3-cc:</p> <p>18-60 age group: n=652</p> <p>>60 age group: n=678</p> <p>Egg-based IIV3 (Agridal®):</p> <p>18-60 age group: n=648</p> <p>>60 age group: n=676</p>	<p>≥61</p>	<p>Solicited local or systemic reactions</p>	<p>33</p>																						
				<p>Proportion participants reporting local and systemic reactions between day 1 through day 7 after vaccination by vaccine group:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">AE</th> <th colspan="2">Proportion (%)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>IIV3-cc (subunit)</th> <th>Egg-based IIV3 (subunit)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Local reactions</td> <td>32</td> <td>31</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Systemic reactions</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		AE			Proportion (%)		IIV3-cc (subunit)	Egg-based IIV3 (subunit)	Local reactions	32	31	Systemic reactions	22	23	<p>Proportion of participants reporting injection pain site by age group between day 1 through day 7 after vaccination:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Age group</th> <th rowspan="2">AE</th> <th colspan="2">Proportion (%)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>IIV3-cc (subunit)</th> <th>Egg-based IIV3 (subunit)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>18-60</td> <td>Injection site pain</td> <td>22*</td> <td>17*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>≥61</td> <td>Injection site pain</td> <td>9**</td> <td>5**</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Age group	AE	Proportion (%)		IIV3-cc (subunit)	Egg-based IIV3 (subunit)	18-60	Injection site pain
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				<p>There were no differences reported between vaccine groups in unsolicited AEs (reported by 13-15% of subjects among all groups).</p> <p>Proportion of subjects reporting AEs considered to be possibly or probably related to the vaccine:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Age group</th> <th colspan="2">Proportion (%)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>IIV3-cc (subunit)</th> <th>Egg-based IIV3 (subunit)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>18-60</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>≥61</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>SAEs occurred in 1% of adult subjects 18-60 years of age and 3% of elderly subjects ≥61 years of age. The three deaths that occurred over the course of the study were all in elderly subjects ≥61 years of age (1 in the IIV3-cc group and 2 in the egg-based IIV3 group). None of the SAEs or deaths were assessed as vaccine related.</p>	Age group	Proportion (%)		IIV3-cc (subunit)	Egg-based IIV3 (subunit)	18-60	2	4	≥61	2	2		
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<p>Nolan T, Chotpitayasunondh T, Rasrio Capeding M, Carson S, David Senders S, Jaehnig P, de Rooij R, Chandra R. <i>Safety and tolerability of a cell culture derived trivalent subunit inactivated influenza vaccine administered to healthy children and adolescents: A Phase III, randomized, multicenter, observer-blind study.</i> Vaccine. 2016; 34:230-236.</p>	<p>IIV3-cc (subunit)</p>	<p>Phase III, observer blind RCT Multicentre: US (18 sites) Australia (6 sites) New Zealand (2 sites) Philippines (5 sites) Thailand (3 sites) 2013-2014 influenza season Funded by Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics, Inc. (currently operating as Seqirus Inc.)</p>	<p>Healthy children and adolescents 4-17 years of age % female: 4-8 age group: 52% 9-17 age group: 50% Mean age: 4-8 age group: 5.9 years 9-17 age group: 12.3 years Total participants: n=2055 IIV3-cc: n= 1372 Egg-based IIV3 (Fluvirin): n= 683</p>	<p>Proportion of participants aged 4-8 years (NPV) reporting any solicited reactions within seven days after first dose:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">AE</th> <th colspan="2">Proportion (%)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>IIV3-cc (subunit)</th> <th>Egg-based IIV3 (subunit)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Any</td> <td>61</td> <td>63</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Local</td> <td>48</td> <td>43</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Systemic</td> <td>34</td> <td>32</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Proportion of participants aged 4-8 years reporting any solicited reactions within seven days after second dose:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">AE</th> <th colspan="2">Proportion (%)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>IIV3-cc (subunit)</th> <th>Egg-based IIV3 (subunit)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Any</td> <td>48</td> <td>52</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Local</td> <td>40</td> <td>43</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Systemic</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Proportion of participants aged 4-17 years reporting solicited reactions within seven days after single dose:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">AE</th> <th colspan="2">Proportion (%)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>IIV3-cc (subunit)</th> <th>Egg-based IIV3 (subunit)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Any</td> <td>63</td> <td>54</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Local</td> <td>53</td> <td>43</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Systemic</td> <td>37</td> <td>30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Proportion of participants aged 4-8 years who reported any (severe* in brackets) solicited local reactions within 7 days of vaccination:</p>	AE	Proportion (%)		IIV3-cc (subunit)	Egg-based IIV3 (subunit)	Any	61	63	Local	48	43	Systemic	34	32	AE	Proportion (%)		IIV3-cc (subunit)	Egg-based IIV3 (subunit)	Any	48	52	Local	40	43	Systemic	21	22	AE	Proportion (%)		IIV3-cc (subunit)	Egg-based IIV3 (subunit)	Any	63	54	Local	53	43	Systemic	37	30	<p>I</p>	<p>Fair</p>
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				Fever(≥38°C)	1	1											
				Analgesic/antipyretic	6	10											
				Stayed at home	1	3											
				<p>Severe local and severe systemic solicited reactions were reported rarely and were comparable across age and vaccine groups; ≤1% of any reaction classified as severe.</p> <p>Proportion of subjects 3-8 years of age reporting unsolicited AEs* collected for the 50-day study period:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">AE</th> <th colspan="2">Proportion (%)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>IIV3-cc (subunit)</th> <th>Egg-based IIV3 (subunit)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st</td> <td>32</td> <td>34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd</td> <td>18</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*5-8% were considered at least possibly related to the vaccine</p> <p>19-20% of subjects 8-17 years of age reported unsolicited AEs during the 29-day study period; 3% of these were considered at least possibly related to the vaccine</p> <p>Unsolicited AEs occurred in 1-4% of subjects across age and vaccine groups; 0 to <1% were considered at least possibly related to the study vaccines.</p>			AE	Proportion (%)		IIV3-cc (subunit)	Egg-based IIV3 (subunit)	1st	32	34	2nd	18	20
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				<p>28 SAEs were reported over the course of the study (4 – month during the postvaccination period, 24 during the 6 safety follow-up period). None of these SAEs were assessed as vaccine related.</p> <p>No deaths were reported.</p>																																				
<p>Frey S, Vesikari T, Szymczakiewicz-Multanowska A, Lattanzi M, Izu A, Groth N, Holmes S. <i>Clinical Efficacy of Cell Culture-Derived and Egg-Derived Inactivated Subunit Influenza Vaccines in Healthy Adults.</i> Clin Infect Dis. 2010; 51(9):997-1004.</p> <p>ClinicalTrials.gov <i>Efficacy Study of Two Influenza Vaccines and Placebo in Healthy Adult Subjects</i> NCT00630331</p>	IIV3-cc (subunit)	<p>Observer-blind RCT</p> <p>Multi-centre: US Finland Poland</p> <p>2007-2008 influenza season</p> <p>Funded by Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics, Inc. (currently operating as Seqirus Inc.)</p>	<p>Healthy adults 18-49 years of age</p> <p>Mean age: 32.7-33.0 years</p> <p>54-55% female</p> <p>Total participants analyzed (safety):</p> <p>IIV3-cc: n=3813</p> <p>Egg-based IIV3 (Agrippal®): n=3669</p> <p>Placebo: n=3894</p>	<p>The overall proportion of participants reporting solicited local and systemic reactions between day 1 through day 7 after vaccination (not including SAEs) by the MedDRA Term was 51.11% for the IIV3-cc group, 46.42 % for the egg-based IIV3 group, and 35.62% for the placebo group.</p> <p>Proportion of participants reporting solicited local reactions between day 1 through day 7 after vaccination (not including SAEs) by the MedDRA Term:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">AE at injection site</th> <th colspan="3">Proportion (%)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>IIV3-cc (subunit)</th> <th>Egg-based IIV3 (subunit)</th> <th>Placebo (subunit)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Erythema</td> <td>13.38</td> <td>13.41</td> <td>10.04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Induration</td> <td>6.27</td> <td>5.64</td> <td>2.59</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pain</td> <td>30.37</td> <td>24.34</td> <td>9.63</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Swelling</td> <td>5.72</td> <td>4.93</td> <td>2.65</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Proportion of participants reporting solicited systemic reactions between day 1 through day 7 after vaccination (not including SAEs) by the MedDRA Term:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">AE</th> <th colspan="3">Proportion (%)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>IIV3-cc (subunit)</th> <th>Egg-based IIV3 (subunit)</th> <th>Placebo (subunit)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	AE at injection site	Proportion (%)			IIV3-cc (subunit)	Egg-based IIV3 (subunit)	Placebo (subunit)	Erythema	13.38	13.41	10.04	Induration	6.27	5.64	2.59	Pain	30.37	24.34	9.63	Swelling	5.72	4.93	2.65	AE	Proportion (%)			IIV3-cc (subunit)	Egg-based IIV3 (subunit)	Placebo (subunit)					I	Fair
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Int J Infect Dis. 2015;41:65-72. ClinicalTrial.gov Safety and Immunogenicity of Three Influenza Vaccines in Children Aged 4 Years Old to Less than 18 Years Old NCT01992107		operating as Seqirus Inc.)	593 children vaccinated with Flucelvax® IIV3-cc (B/Yamagata) (420 previously vaccinated, 173 not previously vaccinated) 48% female	Systemic 31 36 35 Others 9 9 9 Any 71 68 61 Local 65 60 55 Systemic 40 41 33 Others 6 8 7	9-18																																													
			Group 3: 581 children vaccinated with Flucelvax® IIV3-cc (B/Victoria) (400 previously vaccinated, 181 not previously vaccinated) 49% female					* Not previously vaccinated subjects 4-5 and 6-9 years of age received two vaccinations, and previously vaccinated subjects 4-5, 6-8, and 9-17 years of age received one vaccination. ** Data from the first vaccination includes both previously vaccinated and not previously vaccinated subjects for those 4-5 and 6-8 years of age. Proportion of children reporting solicited AEs (age-appropriate) within 7 days after vaccination after the 2 nd dose:																																										
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AE	Proportion (%)																																
	IIV4-cc (subunit)	IIV3-cc (B/Yam) (subunit)	IIV3-cc (B/Vic) (subunit)																														
Any	24	24	27																														
At least possibly related to vaccine	5	6	5																														
SAE	1	1	<1																														
Medically attended	27	27	27																														
New onset of chronic diseases	2	2	2																														
<p>Loebermann M, Fritzsche C, Geerdes-Fenge H, Heijnen E, Kirby D, Reisinger EC. A phase III, open-label, single-arm, study to</p>	IIV3-cc (subunit)	Phase III open-label, single-arm, study Germany	Healthy adults 18 to ≤60 years and ≥61 years of age Mean age: 53.8 years	<p>Proportion of subjects aged 18 to ≤60 years with solicited AEs after vaccination with IIV3-cc:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>AE</th> <th>Proportion (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Any</td> <td>57</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Local*</td> <td>51</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	AE	Proportion (%)	Any	57	Local*	51	II-3	Fair																					
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STUDY DETAILS					SUMMARY																					
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<p><i>evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of a trivalent, surface antigen inactivated subunit influenza virus vaccine produced in mammalian cell culture (Optaflu®) in healthy adults.</i> Infection. 2019; 47:105-109.</p> <p>ClinicalTrial.gov <i>Safety and Immunogenicity of a Cell Derived Subunit Trivalent Nonadjuvanted Influenza Study Vaccine in Adults Aged 18 Years and Above</i> NCT01880697</p>		<p>Single-center</p> <p>2013-2014 influenza season</p> <p>Funded by Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics, Inc. (currently operating as Seqirus Inc.)</p>	<p>56% female</p> <p>Total participants: n=126;</p> <p>Adults aged 18 to ≤60 years: n=63</p> <p>Adults aged ≥61 years: n=63</p>	<table border="1"> <tr><td>Pain at the injection site</td><td>49</td></tr> <tr><td>Induration</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>Systemic**</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>Headache</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>Fatigue</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>Malaise</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>Arthralgia</td><td>5</td></tr> </table>	Pain at the injection site	49	Induration	8	Systemic**	27	Headache	17	Fatigue	16	Malaise	5	Arthralgia	5								
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<p>*Threshold for erythema, ecchymosis and induration: grade 0 (<10mm), any (≥10 mm)</p> <p>** Includes subjects with body temperature ≥38°C irrespective of route of measurement</p> <p>Proportion of subjects aged ≥61 years with solicited AEs after vaccination with IIV3-cc:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th>AE</th><th>Proportion (%)</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Any</td><td>35</td></tr> <tr><td>Local*</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>Pain at the injection site</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>Induration</td><td><2</td></tr> <tr><td>Systemic**</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>Headache</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>Fatigue</td><td>N/A</td></tr> <tr><td>Malaise</td><td>N/A</td></tr> <tr><td>Arthralgia</td><td>5</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*Threshold for erythema, ecchymosis and induration: grade 0 (<10mm), any (≥10 mm)</p> <p>** Includes subjects with body temperature ≥38°C irrespective of route of measurement</p> <p>Proportion for all subjects with solicited AEs after vaccination with IIV3-cc:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th>AE</th><th>Proportion (%)</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Any</td><td>46</td></tr> <tr><td>Local*</td><td>40</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	AE	Proportion (%)	Any	35	Local*	29	Pain at the injection site	29	Induration	<2	Systemic**	13	Headache	10	Fatigue	N/A	Malaise	N/A	Arthralgia	5	AE	Proportion (%)	Any	46	Local*	40
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STUDY DETAILS					SUMMARY			
Study	Vaccine	Study Design	Participants	Summary of Key Findings		Level of Evidence	Quality	
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Moro PL, Winiiecki S, Lewis P, Shimabukuro TT, Cano M. <i>Surveillance of adverse events after the first trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine produced in mammalian cell culture (Flucelvax) reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), United States, 2013-2015.</i> Vaccine. 2015; 33(45):6684-6688.	IIV3-cc (subunit)	Clinical review of cases identified through the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) co-managed by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the US FDA 2013-2014 2014-2015 influenza seasons No external sources of funding	Persons vaccinated with IIV3-cc during July 1, 2013 through March 31, 2015 (reports received by April 30, 2015); excluding non-US reports 55.5% female Mean age: 18.5 years Range: 0.7–85 years Total reports reviewed: n= 629 Reports with an AE: n= 309 Reports during 2013–2014 influenza season: n= 389 Reports during 2014–2015 influenza season: n=240	Proportion of participants reporting local and systemic reactions :		III	Good	
				AE*				Proportion (%)
				General disorders and administration site conditions				49.20
				Local reactions				23.95
				Immune system disorders				23.60
				Anaphylaxis				0.65
				Musculoskeletal and connective tissue				11.90
				Nervous system disorders				4.50
				Guillain-Barre syndrome				1.30
				Bell's palsy				0.65
				Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders				3.60
				Gastrointestinal disorders				1.60
				Cardiac disorders				1.60
				Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders				1.00
				Infections and infestations				1.00
Ear and labyrinth disorders		0.60						
Other		1.30						
*Each report was assigned a primary clinical category using MedDRA system organ classes (SOC)				19 (6.1%) of the 309 reports with an AE documented were serious.				
				313 reports of use in persons of inappropriate age (271 during the 2013–2014 initial season of IIV3-cc use); none of the 10 reports which described an AE were serious				

STUDY DETAILS					SUMMARY	
<i>Study</i>	<i>Vaccine</i>	<i>Study Design</i>	<i>Participants</i>	<i>Summary of Key Findings</i>	<i>Level of Evidence</i>	<i>Quality</i>
				Among the serious reports, 1 death occurred in a 77-year-old female with a history of diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, arthritis, and depression who received IIV-cc. Cause of death was reported as cardiovascular disease secondary to diabetes.		

Abbreviations: AE: adverse event; CI: confidence interval; MedDRA: Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities; n/a: not applicable; IIV4-cc: cell-culture based quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine; RCT: randomized controlled trial; SAE: serious adverse event; IIV3-cc: cell-culture based trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine; US: United States; VAERS: Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System, NPV: Not Previously Vaccinated, PV: Previously Vaccinated

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<i>Abbreviation</i>	<i>Term</i>
AE	Adverse event
CI	Confidence interval
CVV	Candidate vaccine virus
EMR	Electronic medical record
DoD	Department of Defense (US)
FDA	Food and Drug Administration (United States)
GMT	Geometric mean titre
HA	Hemagglutinin
HI	Hemagglutination inhibition
IIV	Inactivated influenza vaccine ki cc
IIV3	Trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine
IIV3-Adj	Adjuvanted trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine
IIV3-cc	Cell-culture based trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine
IIV3-HD	High-dose trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine
IIV3-SD	Standard-dose trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine
IIV4	Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine
IIV4-cc	Cell-culture based quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine
IIV4-SD	Standard-dose quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine
ILI	Influenza-like illness
IM	Intramuscular
IWG	Influenza Working Group
LAIV	Live attenuated influenza vaccine
LAIV3	Trivalent live attenuated influenza vaccine

LAIV4	Quadrivalent live attenuated influenza vaccine
MDCK	Madin-Darby Canine Kidney
MedDRA	Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities
n/a	Not applicable
NA	Neuraminidase
NACI	National Advisory Committee on Immunization
NOCD	New onset of chronic diseases
OR	Odds ratio
PHAC	Public Health Agency of Canada
RCT	Randomized controlled trial
rVE	Relative vaccine effectiveness
SAE	Serious adverse event
US	United States
VAERS	Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (US)
VE	Vaccine effectiveness

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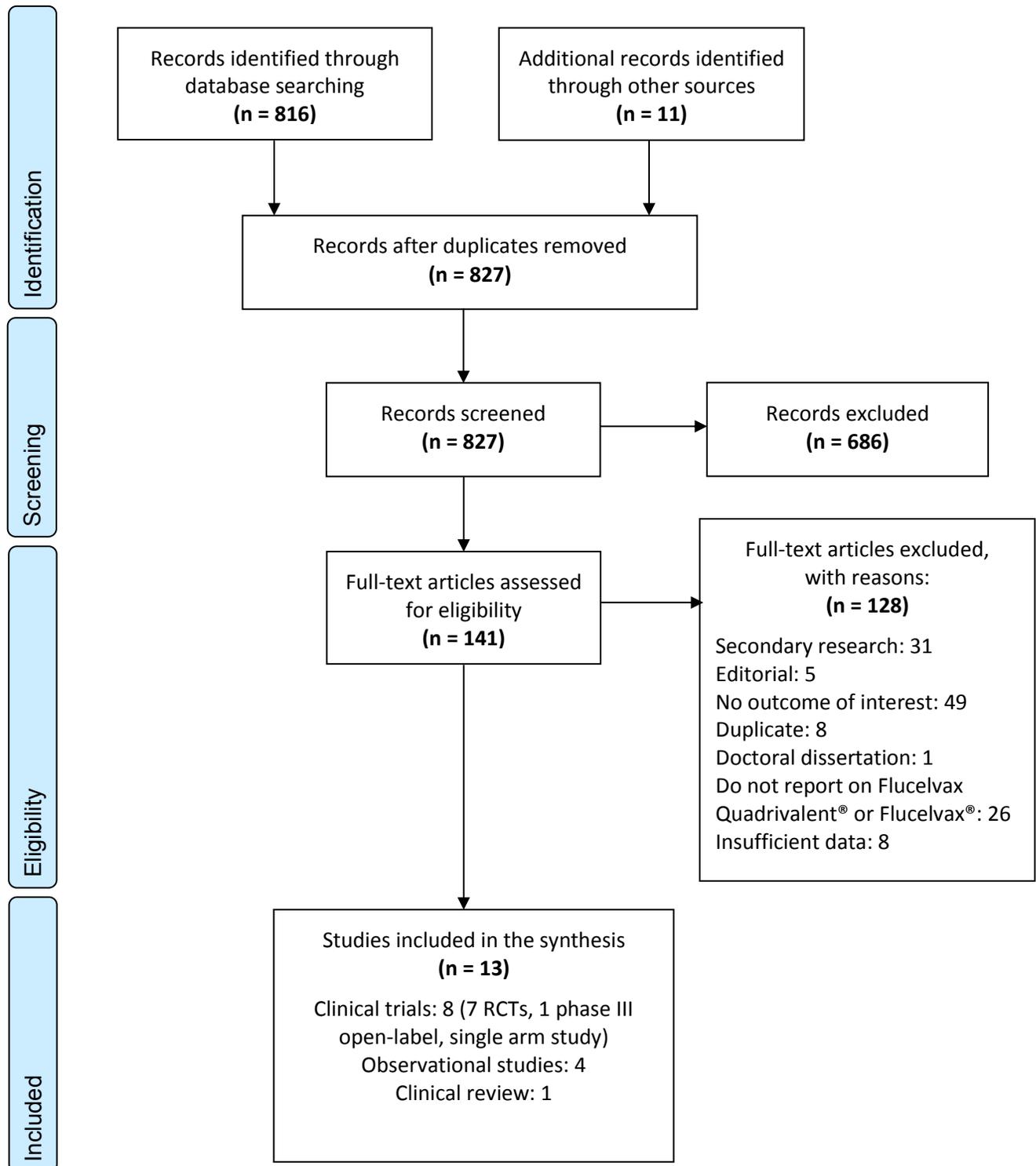
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Appendix A: PRISMA Flow Diagram

Efficacy, effectiveness, immunogenicity, and safety of Flucelvax® Quad. February 12, 2019



APPENDIX B: CHARACTERISTICS OF INFLUENZA VACCINES AVAILABLE FOR USE IN CANADA, 2020–2021*

Product name (manufacturer)	Vaccine Characteristic									
	Vaccine type	Route of administration	Authorized ages for use	Antigen content for each vaccine strain	Adjuvant	Formats available	Post-puncture shelf life for multi-dose vials	Thimerosal	Antibiotics (traces)	Production medium
Quadrivalent										
Flulaval® Tetra (GSK)	IIV4-SD (split virus)	IM	6 months and older	15 µg HA /0.5 mL dose	None	5 mL multi-dose vial Single dose pre-filled syringe	28 days	Yes (multi-dose vial only)	None	Egg (Avian)
Fluzone® Quadrivalent (Sanofi Pasteur)	IIV4-SD (split virus)	IM	6 months and older	15 µg HA /0.5 mL dose	None	5 mL multi-dose vial Single dose vial Single-dose pre-filled syringe without attached needle	Up to expiry date indicated on vial label	Yes (multi-dose vial only)	None	Egg (Avian)
Afluria® Tetra (Seqirus)	IIV4-SD (split virus)	IM	5 years and older	15 µg HA /0.5 mL dose	None	5 mL multi-dose vial Single dose pre-filled syringe without attached needle	Up to expiry date indicated on vial label	Yes (multi-dose vial only)	Neomycin and polymyxin B	Egg (Avian)
Influvac® Tetra (BGP Pharma ULC, operating as Mylan)	IIV4-SD (subunit)	IM or deep subcutaneous injection	3 years and older	15 µg HA /0.5 mL dose	None	Single dose pre-filled syringe with or without a needle	Not applicable	No	Gentamicin or neomycin and polymyxin B [§]	Egg (Avian)
Flucelvax® Quad (Seqirus)	IIV4-cc (subunit)	IM	9 years and older	15 µg HA /0.5 mL dose	None	5 mL multi-dose vial Single dose pre-filled syringe without attached needle	28 days	Yes (multi-dose vial only)	No	Cell (Mammalian)
FluMist® Quadrivalent (AstraZeneca)	LAIV4 (live attenuated)	Intranasal	2–59 years	10 ^{6.5-7.5} FFU of live attenuated reassortants /0.2 mL dose	None	Single use pre-filled glass sprayer	Not applicable	No	Gentamicin	Egg (Avian)

Product name (manufacturer)	Vaccine Characteristic									
	Vaccine type	Route of administration	Authorized ages for use	Antigen content for each vaccine strain	Adjuvant	Formats available	Post-puncture shelf life for multi-dose vials	Thimerosal	Antibiotics (traces)	Production medium
				(given as 0.1 mL in each nostril)						
Trivalent										
Agriflu® (Seqirus)	IIV3-SD (subunit)	IM	6 months and older	15 µg HA /0.5 mL dose	None	5 mL multi-dose vial Single dose pre-filled syringe without attached needle	28 days	Yes (multi-dose vial only)	Kanamycin and neomycin	Egg (Avian)
Fluviral® (GSK)	IIV3-SD (split virus)	IM	6 months and older	15 µg HA /0.5 mL dose	None	5 mL multi-dose vial	28 days	Yes	None	Egg (Avian)
Fluzone® High-Dose (Sanofi Pasteur)	IIV3-HD (split virus)	IM	65 years and older	60 µg HA /0.5 mL dose	None	Single dose pre-filled syringe	Not applicable	No	None	Egg (Avian)
Fluad Pediatric® and Fluad® (Seqirus)	IIV3-Adj (subunit)	IM	Pediatric: 6–23 months Adult: 65 years and older	Pediatric: 7.5 µg HA /0.25 mL dose Adult: 15 µg HA /0.5 mL dose	MF59	Single dose pre-filled syringe without a needle	Not applicable	No	Kanamycin and neomycin	Egg (Avian)

Abbreviations: FFU: fluorescent focus units; HA: hemagglutinin; IIV3-Adj: adjuvanted trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine; IIV3-HD: high-dose trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine; IIV3-SD: standard-dose trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine; IIV4-cc: cell-culture based quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine; IIV4-SD: standard-dose quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine; IM: intramuscular; LAIV4: quadrivalent live attenuated influenza vaccine; NA: neuraminidase.

* Full details of the composition of each vaccine authorized for use in Canada, including other non-medicinal ingredients, and a brief description of its manufacturing process can be found in the product monograph.

§ Neomycin and polymyxin B are only used if gentamicin cannot be used. No trace amounts of neomycin or polymyxin B are present if gentamicin was used.