

Internal Medicine Specialists, P.C.

PATIENT INFORMED CONSENT FORM FOR INFLUENZA VACCINATION

THE FLU

Influenza is a respiratory infection caused by a virus. When people get the flu, they may have fever, chills, headache, dry cough, and/or muscle aches. The illness may last several days or a week or more and complete recovery is usual. However, complications may lead to pneumonia or death in some people. It is not possible to estimate the risk of an individual getting the flu in any particular year, but for the elderly and people who have diabetes, heart, lung or kidney disease, the flu may be especially serious.

THE VACCINE

The injection of the flu vaccine will not give you the flu because the vaccine is made from dead viruses. The vaccine is made from viruses selected by the United States Public Health Service. The purpose of receiving the influenza vaccine is to prevent you from becoming ill with influenza and to possibly reduce the severity of the influenza if you do get it. It also reduces the chance of transmitting influenza to other people. The influenza vaccine will not prevent you from getting the flu from a virus not contained within the vaccine.

RISKS AND POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Side effects of the influenza vaccine are generally mild in adults and occur at a low frequency. These reactions usually consist of tenderness at the injection site, fever, malaise and/or muscle aches. These symptoms may last up to 48 hours. Severe allergic reactions may occur, but they are rare.

A small number of patients who received the 1976 swine flu vaccine suffered a paralysis called Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS). GBS is typically characterized by paralysis that begins in the hands or feet and then moves to the arms and legs or both. GBS is usually self-limited and most persons with GBS recover without permanent weakness. In approximately 5% of cases, however, a permanent or even fatal form of paralysis may occur. In 1976, GBS appeared with excess frequency among persons who received the 1976 swine influenza vaccine. Ten weeks following vaccination, the risk of GBS was found to be approximately 10 cases for every 1 million persons vaccinated. This represented a 5 to 6 times higher risk than in unvaccinated persons. Younger persons (under 25 years of age) had a lower risk than others and also had a lower fatality rate. Data on the occurrence of GBS has been collected during several influenza seasons since surveillance began in 1978. In 1990 and 1991, although there was no overall increase in the frequency of GBS among vaccine recipients, there may have been a small increase in GBS cases in vaccinated persons 18-64 years of age, but not in those 65 or more. In contrast to the swine influenza vaccine, the epidemiological features of the possible association of the 1990-1991 vaccine with GBS were not as convincing. The data suggests that, in contrast to the 1976 situation, there has not been a clearly associated increase of risk of GBS in recipients of the influenza vaccine compared to non-vaccines. Persons who receive influenza vaccine should be aware of the possible risks of GBS, as compared to the risk of influenza and its complications. In addition, other neurological disorders have been reported in association with the administration of influenza vaccine.

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS

A personal physician should be contacted before this vaccine is administered to pregnant women. Patients who are allergic to egg, egg products, or any component of the vaccine should not receive this vaccine until they have contacted their personal physician. Persons with fever should not receive the vaccine. People who have received any other

type of vaccine within 14 days prior to receiving the influenza vaccine should contact their personal physician before receiving the influenza vaccine. If you have a reaction, contact your personal physician immediately. If you have any questions, also feel free to call and speak with us.

WHAT TO DO IF THERE IS A SERIOUS REACTION

1. Call your doctor or get the person to a physician immediately.
2. Write down what happened, including the date, time, and the events that occurred.
3. Ask you doctor, nurse or Health Department to file a vaccine adverse event report form or call 1-800-822-7967.

The National Vaccine Injury Compensation program gives compensation (payment) for some persons thought to be injured by vaccines. For details, call 1-800-338-2382.

If you want to learn more, ask your doctor or nurse. They can give you the vaccine package insert or suggest other sources of information. The above information was obtained from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Services, Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

CONSENT

I have read the above information and have had an opportunity to ask questions. I understand the benefits and risks of the flu vaccination as described. I request that the vaccine be given to me or to the person named below for whom I am authorized to sign. I further understand that the influenza vaccination is considered a preventative healthcare measure and, as such, may not be covered by my insurance company. I agree to pay any costs associated with the vaccine not covered by my insurance company.

Name

Date

Signature

Relationship (if not patient)