



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

From the Lord Bethell  
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Dear Professor Van-Tam and Ms Williams,

Thank you for your letter of 17 November, which sought the Licensing Authority's authorisation for the vaccine developed by Pfizer/BioNTech (Vaccine BNT162b2) to be supplied by the Department of Health and Social Care (the Department) under regulation 174 of The Human Medicines Regulations 2012 (Annex A).

After taking the advice of the Commission on Human Medicines, and considering the evidence on quality, efficacy and safety of this vaccine and the public health need to curb the spread of COVID-19, I have decided to approve the Department's proposed supply of the vaccine in response to the pandemic, pending the product obtaining a market authorisation.

My approval is subject to a number of conditions, which are annexed, and which will apply to all those involved in the supply and distribution of this product. This approval is not a market authorisation, and there is therefore no general authorisation to place this vaccine on the market.

The Department had asked, in particular, whether the authorisation would require specific guidance on administration of the vaccine for:

1. Those with a clinical history of COVID-19 infection (in the absence of any polymerase chain reaction (PCR) confirmation)
2. Those with a clinical history of COVID-19, as confirmed by PCR
3. Those with no history of disease but at least one assay showing the presence of COVID-19 antibodies.

Following the CHM's recommendation on these questions, I can confirm that no specific precautions have been suggested for the administration of this vaccine in any of the above three populations.

With my very best wishes,

LORD BETHELL

## Annex A

This authorisation under Regulation 174 of the Human Medicine Regulations 2012 (as amended) is subject to a number of conditions attached under regulation 174A(1) to all the entities involved in the manufacture and supply of this product across the medicines supply chain.

### General

- This temporary Authorisation under Regulation 174 permits the supply of identified COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine BNT162b2 batches, based on the safety, quality and efficacy data submitted by Pfizer/BioNTech to MHRA in the period from 1st October to 29 November 2020;
- This authorisation is not a marketing authorisation;
- As provided in Regulation 174A(2) of the Human Medicine Regulations the sale or supply of this vaccine will not be deemed authorised if the supply is for the purpose of any use other than the recommended or required use, or if a condition in this authorisation is breached;
- Pfizer and BioNTech are required to identify the legal entity which is to be deemed the person placing the product on the market in the United Kingdom for the purposes of regulation 345(3)(aa) of the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 (hereinafter "Pfizer/BioNTech")
- Pfizer/BioNTech are jointly and separately responsible, with the manufacturers of the product, for the conditions relating to the manufacture of the product and to product release to the market under the terms of this authorisation
- Pfizer/BioNTech is not only responsible for compliance with the conditions expressly applied to it in this authorisation but also, where the conditions apply legislation or guidance that confers responsibilities on marketing authorisation holders, for compliance with any responsibility however worded that applies to a marketing authorisation holder in the applied legislation or guidance;
- Pfizer/BioNTech must each promptly provide to MHRA any further data that is generated by them, or which otherwise come into their possession, which is relevant to the risk / benefit profile of the product;
- Pfizer/BioNTech must respond in a timely manner to any requests for further supplementary data relating to product;
- Any deviations from any of these conditions can only be made with the prior agreement of the MHRA;
- MHRA may review and adjust these conditions for temporary supply in response to any developments which it considers material, including any subsequent market authorisations that might be issued by other medicines regulators;
- This authorisation will be valid until expressly withdrawn by MHRA or upon issue of a full market authorisation by the MHRA.

## Quality

- The supply of batch EJ0553 is authorised providing that:
  - Pfizer/BioNTech ensure that Good Laboratory Practice studies are performed to standards in UK national regulations, relevant guidelines and the OECD Principles of Good Laboratory Practice.
  - Pfizer/BioNTech ensure that clinical trials are performed to national regulations and relevant guidelines including ICH GCP E6R2
  - Pfizer/BioNTech submit to MHRA GCP inspections to assess the compliance any of the clinical trials and applicable data attached to the authorisation by virtue of regulation 174A. The powers of inspection will be the same as those outlined in regulations 325, 326 and 327
  - Pfizer/BioNTech ensure that all drug substance and drug product manufacture outside the UK is in accordance with EU GMP and the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 (as amended) in facilities with current EU GMP certificates or other acceptable and suitable authorisation to MHRA.
  - QP certification is provided for the final dosage form and applying the approach and standards in EU GMP Annex 16.
  - Any importation or manufacturing facilities located within the UK must be authorised by the MHRA to handle Regulation 174 products. All drug substance and drug product manufacture must be in accordance with EU GMP and the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 (as amended) in facilities with current EU GMP certificates or other acceptable and suitable authorisation to MHRA.
  - Compliance with GMP requirements is documented in the QP check sheets and Pfizer/BioNTech provide these to the MHRA for each batch along with the QP certificates of conformance. QP certification must take into NIBSC certification process, as this in itself does not imply release to market.
  - QP certification declares: (i) compliance with all stages of EU GMP (where non-compliant, a gap analysis must be performed, and captured on the QP checksheet), and (ii) that the batch has been manufactured as per the dossier supplied (currently Emergency Use Authorisation).
  - A certificate of conformance with GMP and the conditions of this authorization must be generated by the releasing QP and supplied to the onward supply chain.
- Further batches are authorised for supply, subject to batch specific approval by MHRA and providing that the full product lifecycle is in compliance with the conditions specified above in relation to batch EJ0553;
- Pfizer/BioNTech must provide a robust root cause analysis on the visible lipid particles as soon as this is available;
- Any changes to or deviation from the manufacture of the product must be notified to MHRA for approval on allocation of the batch to UK use.

### Product information and Instructions for Use (PIL and SmPC equivalent)

- Pfizer/BioNTech must liaise with the Agency to provide suitable instructions for usage of the product.
- The instructions for usage that will be agreed with Pfizer/BioNTech are to be considered as conditions of this authorisation.

### Clinical and Pharmacovigilance

- Pfizer/BioNTech must operate a comprehensive pharmacovigilance system for this product in accordance with UK legislation for licensed products, as if they were
- Pfizer/BioNTech must submit to MHRA inspections to assess compliance with any and all pharmacovigilance obligations attached to the authorisation by virtue of regulation 174A. The powers of inspection will be the same as those outlined in regulations 325, 326 and 327.
- Pfizer/BioNTech must ensure compliance with the BTN162b2 RMP, including the additional pharmacovigilance elements laid out in sections 6b-g of the MHRA core RMP for COVID-19 vaccines.
- Pfizer/BioNTech must:
  - Submit protocols for the studies stated in the BTN162b2 RMP pharmacovigilance plan
  - Provide the interim analysis and final clinical study reports for study BNT162-01 once available, including data on healthy subjects
  - Ensure that any participants in study c4591001 that choose to be unblinded and then have a Covid-19 vaccination if they are on placebo arm, should have an end of study visit including immunogenicity assessment (including anti-N antibodies) and also NAAT. This is to ensure that they have a complete status before they become unevaluable for the control arm.

### Deployment

Pfizer/BioNTech has assured the MHRA that:

- The product as supplied in ultra low temperature conditions (ULT) has a stability of six months at a temperature of -70 +/- 10 degrees Centigrade.
- Distribution as part of the deployment can be controlled at either ULT (-70 +/- 10 degrees Centigrade) within four transitions, or in 2-8 degrees Centigrade within 120 hours of leaving ULT.
- Further packing down of lots to aid deployment can occur at 2-8 degrees Centigrade within the 120 hours shelf life of leaving ULT.

- Transit of the undiluted product at 2-8 degree Centigrade can occur in two journeys each up to 6 hours or 12 hours in one sitting.
- The undiluted product can be held at room temperature below 25 degrees Centigrade for up to two hours prior to dilution.
- The product can be diluted at room temperature less than 25 degrees Centigrade using sterile unpreserved 0.9 percent sodium chloride and in line with the healthcare professional information supplied by the company
- The diluted product can be used within 6 hours of dilution and then must be discarded. Diluted product cannot be transported.
- Pfizer/BioNTech will promptly provide evidence in support of these assurances, and in particular i) evidence of intermittent temporary excursions to -90 degrees Centigrade and ii) that the vial stopper supports puncturing a minimum of 6 times using needles of up to 21 gauge (once to dilute, and then for 5 for administration of doses).

It is a condition of the authorisation to supply the product that the above assurances are accurate and that the product can be supplied and held safely in accordance with the above assurances throughout the supply chain.

#### Supply chain and distribution

The deployment model developed for the distribution and administration of the product by the NHS in each of the four countries of the United Kingdom and Crown Dependencies should comply with the above conditions in order to ensure the safety, quality and efficacy of the product is not compromised. Where appropriate, the above assurances must be reflected in the conditions imposed on NHS contractors by NHS commissioners.

In the United Kingdom, the vaccines will be delivered to designated NHS bodies or NHS contractors that have capacity to hold the vaccines at ultra low temperatures (expected to be, but not necessarily, Movianto (in Scotland, England and Northern Ireland) and the Welsh Blood Service). Thereafter, the NHS arrangements for the onward and (if different) final distribution of the products, and their final deployment, are still being developed, but the bodies responsible under NHS arrangements in each of the four countries for any aspect of the distribution or final deployment of the vaccine must comply, as conditions of this authorisation, with the conditions that are applicable to that aspect of the distribution or final deployment in this authorisation.

The bodies responsible for the transit of the product to the designated NHS bodies or NHS contractors in the UK from the manufacturer must also comply, as conditions of this authorisation, with the conditions of the authorisation that are applicable to them.

In addition:

- All wholesalers and manufacturing license holders distributing or holding this product must be authorised to handle Regulation 174 products
- All activities are to be conducted in accordance with GDP.

- A manufacturing licence holder can pack down the authorised product without being named on the Company submission.
- Pack down prior to distribution must occur in accordance with GMP and requires QP certification that it has occurred in accordance with GMP and the specification provided by the contract giver.
- Manufacturers and authorised persons performing the pack down activities must be authorised to handle regulation 174 products and immunological products.
- WDA(H) holders and NHS acute trusts and Boards in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are authorised to apply the change in storage condition label to the product, to indicate the timing of the removal from ultra low temperature without a manufacturing licence.
- All distribution must be controlled at either ULT within four transitions, or in 2-8 degrees Centigrade within 120 hours from leaving ULT
- The WDA(H) receiving the boxes must be authorised for Regulation 174 products and ULT cold chain.
- Pack down under section 10 of the Medicines Act 2012 or regulation 3 of the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 for supply by the same legal entity must take place in a manner and environment that ensure, and must be subject to NHS governance arrangements and standard operating procedures that ensure, that the safety, quality and efficacy of the product is not compromised. Any guidance in respect of the packing down of the product under section 10 or regulation 3 published by the licensing authority on Gov.uk must be appropriately adhered to.
- Final preparation of the product for administration must take place in a manner and environment ensure, and must be subject to NHS governance arrangements and standard operating procedures that ensure, the safety, quality or efficacy of the product is not compromised. Any guidance in respect of the final preparation of the product published by the licensing authority on Gov.uk must be appropriately adhered to
- In light of the batch specific nature of this approval, and the high demand for this product, authorities administrating this vaccine should ensure that they have provision for two doses for each patient treated.