



## IMMUNIZATION AGAINST FLU

# Anvisa approves influenza vaccine for the elderly

According to the manufacturer, the use of the product aims to induce better immune responses and more effectiveness against influenza through the higher content of antigens, which stimulates the production of antibodies against the virus in the body.

**By: Ascom / Anvisa**

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Anvisa approved the registration of the immunobiological Fluzone Senior ([http://portal.impresanacional.gov.br/materia/-/asset\\_publisher/Kujrw0TZC2Mb/content/id/45218778/do1a-2018-10-15-resolucao-re-n-2-802-de-10-de-outubro-de-2018-45218519](http://portal.impresanacional.gov.br/materia/-/asset_publisher/Kujrw0TZC2Mb/content/id/45218778/do1a-2018-10-15-resolucao-re-n-2-802-de-10-de-outubro-de-2018-45218519)), a new inactivated trivalent influenza vaccine, developed for administration in the elderly (adults 65 years of age or older). In its composition, the product brings two variations of the H3N2 type A - H1N1 influenza strain - and also the influenza type B strain.

According to the manufacturer, the use of the product aims to induce better immune responses and more effectiveness against influenza through the higher content of antigens, which stimulate the production of antibodies against the virus in the body.

According to information from the portal of the Ministry of Health (<https://saudebrasilportal.com.br/saude-brasil-contr-a-influenza>), vaccination is considered the most important intervention to reduce the impact of influenza. Studies have shown that this action can reduce the number of hospitalizations for pneumonia from 32% to 45% and from mortality from complications caused by the virus from 39% to 75%.

The Fluzone Senior vaccine was registered by individual development, according to the Resolution of the Collegiate Board of Directors (RDC) 55, 2010 ([http://portal.anvisa.gov.br/documents/10181/2718376/RDC\\_55\\_2010\\_COMP.pdf/bb86b1c8-d410-4a51-a9df-a61e165b9618](http://portal.anvisa.gov.br/documents/10181/2718376/RDC_55_2010_COMP.pdf/bb86b1c8-d410-4a51-a9df-a61e165b9618)), which provides for the registration of new biological products and biological products. The holder of the registration in Brazil is Sanofi-Aventis Farmacêutica Ltda.

Check the approval of the registry of the immunological Fluzone Senior, published in the Official Gazette (DOU) ([http://portal.impresanacional.gov.br/materia/-/asset\\_publisher/Kujrw0TZC2Mb/content/id/45218778/do1a-2018-10-15-resolucao-re-n-2-802-de-10-de-outubro-de-2018-45218519](http://portal.impresanacional.gov.br/materia/-/asset_publisher/Kujrw0TZC2Mb/content/id/45218778/do1a-2018-10-15-resolucao-re-n-2-802-de-10-de-outubro-de-2018-45218519)) this Monday (15/10).

## What is influenza?

According to the Ministry of Health (MS), the influenza virus causes an acute viral infection of the respiratory system, high transmissibility and global distribution. A person can contract it several times throughout their lives and, in general, this infection has a self-limited evolution. In some cases, however, it can progress to a severe form.

According to the MS, there are three types of influenza virus (A, B and C), which are easily transmitted by infected people when coughing or sneezing. They cause acute infection of the airways associated with fever (temperature over 37.8 ° C). The other signs are usually sudden onset and include chills, malaise, headache, fatigue, vomiting, diarrhea, dry cough, among several others.

Elderly, children, pregnant women and people with some comorbidity (existence of two or more diseases simultaneously) have a higher risk of developing complications due to influenza infection, according to MS.

In Brazil, the period of greatest circulation of the influenza virus goes from the end of May to August, every year.

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