

CORRESPONDENCE

Re: Influenza immunization in egg allergy: an update for the 2011–2012 season – A comparison with 'GREEN Book', Department of Health UK guideline

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Dear Editor,

We read with interest the article by Erlewyn-Lajeunesse et al. [1] on immunization against influenza in patients suffering from egg allergy. We would like to highlight differences between the table on page 1369 listing ovalbumin content in available influenza vaccines compared with the data published on page 200–1 of 'The Green Book' on immunization [2].

Of clinical importance, two of the vaccines listed in the article as having very low egg content ($<0.12 \mu\text{g/mL}$) CSL and Enzira, both produced by Pfizer, have an ovalbumin content of up to $2 \mu\text{g/mL}$ in *The Green Book*, which would put them in the 'not appropriate' category ($>1.2 \mu\text{g/mL}$). We understand that Pfizer has

changed the vaccine in the last few months, and the most recent update of *The Green Book* has the correct information.

In addition, the vaccines Fluarix (GlaxoSmithKline, Brentford, UK), Viroflu (Crucell, West Yorkshire, UK), have lower ovalbumin levels ($\leq 0.1 \mu\text{g/mL}$) than stated in the article, and therefore should be placed in the 'very low egg' category. Furthermore, Imuvac (Abbott, Maidenhead, UK) and Imuvac (MASTA, Yeadon, UK) have lower ovalbumin levels ($\leq 0.2 \mu\text{g/mL}$) than stated in the article, making them 'low egg' rather than 'not appropriate'.

We hope that this issue can be clarified to avoid confusion in primary care.

References

- 1 Erlewyn-Lajeunesse M, Luca JSA Warner JO. Influenza immunization in egg allergy: an update for the 2011–2012 season. *Clin Exp Allergy* 2011; 41:1367–70.
- 2 Department of Health. Immunisation against infectious disease – "The Green Book" – 2006 updated edition. 26–10–2011 Gateway reference 7523. Available at http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_079917 (accessed 30 October 2011).

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