# COMMISSION ON HUMAN MEDICINES (CHM) COVID-19 VACCINES BENEFIT RISK EXPERT WORKING GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 6th May 2022 at 14:30 via videoconference

#### **Participants Present**

#### **Members**

Professor Sir M Pirmohamed (Chair)

Professor J Breuer

Mr VI G Fenton-May

Professor N French

Professor D Goldblatt

Ms S Hunneyball

Professor K Hyrich

Professor H J Lachmann

Mr R Lowe

Dr S Misbah

Professor Y Perrie

Dr A Riordan

Professor K M G Taylor

Dr R Thorpe

Professor M Turner

Professor S Walsh

Mrs M Wang

#### **Apologies**

Professor G Dougan

Sir M Jacobs

Professor P J Lehner

Professor S Price

Professor C Robertson

Professor T Solomon

Professor C Weir

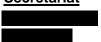
#### Invited Expert<sup>1</sup>



#### **Observers**



#### **Secretariat**



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> joined for item 2 only

## **Professional Staff of MHRA Present**

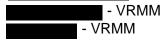
### **Principal Assessors**

Dr J Bonnerjea - LD

### Presenters supporting specific items



#### **MHRA Observers**



# **Government Legal**



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LD = Licensing Division

**VRMM** = Vigilance & Risk Management of Medicines

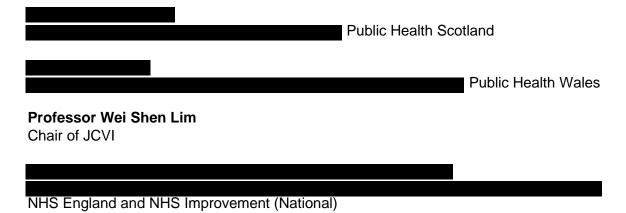
#### 1. Introduction and Announcement

1.1 The Chair reminded Members, invited Experts and observers that the content of papers and proceeding of the meeting are strictly confidential and should be treated as 'Official – sensitive commercial' and should not be disclosed. There is no consent for members / participants to record the meeting, take screenshots or photographs of presentations. The meeting was recorded by the MHRA Secretariat for minute taking purposes only. The Chair & Members including all participants gave full consent to the recording prior to the start of the meeting.

#### 1.2 Conflict of Interest Policy (Annex I to the minutes)

The Chair reminded members and participants that, in accordance with the CHM Code of Practice, they should declare any financial interests (personal or non-personal, specific or non-specific) which they have, or which an immediate family member has, in any of the agenda items. Members were also reminded to declare any other matter which could reasonably be perceived as affecting their impartiality.

- 1.3 Participants declared interests and other relevant interests for this meeting listed at **Annex** II to the minutes.
- **1.4** Apologies were received from Professors Lehner, Price, Robertson, Solomon and Weir for this meeting.
- **1.5** The Chair welcomed the following observers to the meeting:



- 2. Fourth monthly update of myocarditis and pericarditis following administration of Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines
- 2.1 The EWG were presented with an update on the Yellow Card reports for myocarditis and pericarditis with the three COVID-19 vaccines in use in the UK vaccination programme as well as updated observed vs expected analysis and new literature articles.
- 2.2 The EWG noted that the reporting rates seen in the UK Yellow Card data following third/booster doses for the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines continued to be lower than those seen for the primary dose schedule of these vaccines and that the rates were similar for both vaccines. The EWG were reassured by the lower reporting rates following third/booster doses. The EWG noted that the reporting rates in adolescent age groups were lower than in adults, with the reporting rates remaining lower in the 12-15 year age group

compared to the 16-17 year age group. For AstraZeneca the reporting rates for first and second doses have remained similar to previous reviews and overall were lower than both of the mRNA vaccines.

- The EWG were presented with an update to the observed vs expected analysis focusing on the under 18 year age group and booster doses. The EWG noted that the analysis showed signals continuing to be raised for myocarditis with the first and second dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine in the under 18 year age group. A signal continued to be raised with the third/booster dose of mRNA vaccines in the 18-49 year age group.
- The EWG were informed that the Nordic study, which the EWG have previously considered, had now been published. The EWG were informed that there had been a slight reduction in the estimated excess cases of myocarditis since the data was included in the product information for the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines. The EWG noted that the MHRA would contact the European Medicines Agency to discuss any plans to update the product information in line with the new published figures.
- 2.5 The EWG were presented with a paper on a case of giant cell myocarditis following the second dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine. The EWG discussed the details of the case, noting the difference in clinical presentation to reports of myocarditis following COVID-19 vaccine administration. The EWG considered this case did not raise any new concerns.
- 2.6 The EWG concluded that the benefits continued to exceed the risks overall for each vaccine and for all authorised subpopulations. No regulatory action was required based on the data presented.

#### 3. COVID-19 vaccines and Herpes Zoster in under 18-year-olds

- The EWG was presented with a review of the available data regarding cases of herpes zoster following the use of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 and Moderna mRNA COVID-19 vaccines in children aged less than 18-years. The EWG considered clinical trial data, UK Yellow Card reports (with a data lock point of 20 April 2022), Yellow Card Vaccine Monitor data, data from the market authorisation holders, published literature, MHRA epidemiological analyses and international experience in this age group.
- The EWG considered that the totality of the data provided indicated absence of association of herpes zoster following vaccination with both the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines in children less than 18-years.
- The EWG were presented with a published literature article of a self-controlled case series which suggested an increased risk of herpes zoster following vaccination with both the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines. The EWG considered whether the study design could be repeated using CPRD data to reassess an association of herpes zoster in children (<18-years) following vaccination with the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines. The EWG concluded that this approach may not be appropriate at this stage considering the very low reporting rates of herpes zoster but should be considered again at a future safety review. The EWG requested that the topic of herpes zoster in children less than 18-years following vaccination with the mRNA COVD-19 vaccines should be brought back to VBR EWG in 2 to 3 months or more promptly if further evidence emerge.

### 4. Any Other Business

**4.1** The EWG heard a brief update on future Covid-19 vaccine regulatory submissions expected during the coming months.

### 5. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting has been scheduled for Friday 20th May 2022 at 13:30.

The Meeting today started at 14:30 and ended at 15:25.

Members are reminded that the content of papers and proceeding of the meetings are to be treated as 'Official – sensitive commercial'. Members are also reminded that, in accordance with the Code of Practice, they should declare any financial interests (personal or non-personal, specific or non-specific) which they have, or which an immediate family member has, in any of the agenda items. Members must also declare any other matter which could reasonably be perceived as affecting their impartiality. Detailed guidance is set out in the Code of Practice

Annex I

### Conflict of Interest Policy for CHM COVID-19 Vaccine Benefit Risk EWG

#### **Chair and Members**

- May not hold current personal interests in one or more companies associated with the development of COVID-19 vaccines
- May not currently be or have previously been involved in the development of COVID-19 vaccines

Invited to all meetings, receives all papers and presentations and is permitted full participation in discussion, including drawing up conclusions and recommendations

#### **Invited experts**

- May hold current personal interests in one or more companies associated with the development of COVID-19 vaccines
- May currently be or have previously been involved in the development of COVID-19 vaccines

May be invited to all relevant meetings, receives all papers and presentations and is permitted to participate in discussions when invited by the Chair. Does not contribute to conclusions and recommendations

#### **Observers**

Are invited to attend all meetings. Will not participate in drawing up conclusions and recommendations.

**Annex II** 

The following participants declared interests and other relevant interests at the meeting today:

**Professor Sir Munir Pirmohamed** - <u>NPNS</u> AstraZeneca - Research grant to UOL to support PhD in drug interactions.

Other relevant interests in Pfizer, Janssen, Sanofi – Sir Munir is part of an EU-funded IMI consortium on gene therapy, and these companies are partners in the project. The University of Liverpool will get funding from the EU (but not from the partners), this IMI project commences on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020.

AGILE – this is a Liverpool early phase trial platform (between University of Liverpool and Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine). It is funded by the Wellcome Trust and UKRI/DHSC/NIHR. It is NOT evaluating vaccines, but only drugs to treat COVID-19. Sir Munir is not on the trial management group, and he is not directly involved in choosing the compounds for the study. Sir Munir has no involvement with any of the developers of the compounds to be studied (academic or industrial).

Sir Munir is a member of the UK COVID Therapeutics Advisory Panel (UK-CTAP), which is advising the CMO on which compounds need to be prioritised for the RECOVERY+ trial (RECOVERY is funded via NIHR/DHSC).

**Professor Breuer** NPNS – Professor Breuer is on the data safety monitoring committee, DSMB, a study looking at combining vaccines being run by Matthew Snape in Oxford. There does not appear to be any involvement of the vaccine manufacturers and is for already licensed vaccines. The study is funded by the NIHR (Dec 2020).

**Professor French** - Other relevant interest - Provides clinical care when in covering the acute medical wards where patients with COVID-19 are cared. NPNS in GSK - In September 2020 a sub-contract was signed with the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine to undertake work evaluating the safety and effectiveness of GSK's RTS's malaria vaccine in Malawi. GSK are the primary funders to the LSTM.

**Ms Hunneyball** - Other relevant interest — writes articles published in the Chemist and Druggist magazine, a trade magazine for pharmacists, but receives no payment for these articles. The information referred to in the articles is in the public domain. Ms Hunneyball makes it clear that these are her personal views and reflections and references all sources of information used.

**Professor Hyrich** – <u>NPNS</u> - Professor Hyrich was co-I on an investigator-initiated research grant exploring predictors of outcome in rheumatoid arthritis. <u>NPNS</u> Pfizer- she is a Co-I on a grant exploring adherence to JAK inhibitors in rheumatoid arthritis. <u>NPNS</u> in Abbvie, Professor Hyrich gave some lectures at an education conference on effectiveness of treatment for rheumatoid arthritis.

**Professor Lachmann –** Other relevant interest as a volunteer participant in the Oxford vaccine study and no other involvement in the study.

**Dr Misbah** - NPNS - Holds honorary Senior Lectureship with University of Oxford & Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

**Professor Perrie** - NPNS in Pfizer & AstraZeneca arising from a contract for a grant (March 2018), which includes contributions from these companies to the University of Strathclyde, Janssen in writing a grant for a PhD (now funded), GSK – arising from an EU grant to University of Strathclyde (Jan 2019-Dec 2019).

**Dr Riordan** - Other relevant interests - Participant in Oxford University's ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 clinical trial -received immunisation 27/8/2020. NPNS - Postgraduate External Examiner for Oxford University (Postgraduate Diploma in Paediatric Infectious Diseases). Member of the independent Data Safety Monitoring Board for COV-BOOST trial.

**Mrs Wang** - Other relevant interests arising from being highly sensitive to insect stings, and plant products such as Hyacinth bulbs, as recorded on Mrs Wang's medical records. The family of Mrs Wang lives with several rare diseases and conditions, some of which result in epileptic fits.

#### **Observer**

