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Dear colleague,

AstraZeneca/Oxford University COVID-19 Vaccine – Doses per Vial

You may have recently become aware of the potential for an additional doses to be drawn up from the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine vial. On 7 January 2021, the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) updated their published [information to Healthcare Professionals](#) to indicate that there may be sufficient vaccine remaining for additional doses. Please note that the wording refers to an additional dose and not numbers of doses since there are two manufacturers for this vaccine, one contains at least 10 full doses and the other at least 8 full doses.

The updated extract in section 6.6 states:

Each vaccine dose of 0.5 ml is withdrawn into a syringe for injection to be administered intramuscularly. Use a separate sterile needle and syringe for each individual. Each vial contains at least the number of doses stated. It is normal for liquid to remain in the vial after withdrawing the final dose. When low dead volume syringes and/or needles are used, the amount remaining in the vial may be sufficient for an additional dose. Care should be taken to ensure a full 0.5 ml dose is administered. Where a full 0.5 ml dose cannot be extracted, the remaining volume should be discarded.

Drawing up an additional dose should be subject to an individual healthcare professional's judgement, on a case-by-case basis.

Sufficient combined needles and syringes will be made available to support drawing up additional doses.

I hope this is a helpful update.

Yours sincerely,

Alison Strath
Interim Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

