According to the protocol decision of NITAG dated 22.03.2021 № 7

National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG)

POSITION PAPER № 22-03/2021-1

(official statement)

Regarding the recommendation of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine on certain issues of COVID-19 vaccination in Ukraine

These NITAG recommendations address specific issues of COVID-19 vaccination and are recommendatory in nature.

Question 1.

Clarification regarding the compliance of efficacy indicators of CoronaVac vaccine against COVID-19 (grown by using VERO cells), inactivated, manufactured by Sinovac Life.

Position of the Ukrainian NITAG:

No official publications of interim results of phase 3 clinical studies of CoronaVac™ vaccines in open sources during the search were found.

The efficacy indicators of the CoronaVac™ vaccine against COVID-19 (grown by using VERO cells), inactivated, manufactured by Sinovac Life, correspond to those that allow the use of this vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19 with proven efficacy to prevent more than 70% of cases requiring medical attention for therapy and/or hospitalization.

These recommendations should be considered as interim and, as such that can be amended in the event of data update, provided they are not in conflict with current vaccine instructions.

Question 2.

Clarification on the possibility of interchangeability of COVID-19 vaccines of the same development platform from different manufacturers.

Position of the Ukrainian NITAG:

There are currently no data on the interchangeability of the COVID-19 vaccines. Vaccines developed on different platforms are vaccines of various types (e.g., mRNA or viral vector platform, viral vaccines) and thus should be considered as different vaccines that cannot be used interchangeably.

Vaccine manufactured by SIIPL (Covishield™) and vaccine produced by SK Bioscience Co Ltd. are identical in composition and manufacturing technology to AZD1222 vaccine and are not considered as different vaccines and are interchangeable.

These recommendations should be considered as interim and, as such that can be amended in the event of data update, provided they are not in conflict with current vaccine instructions.

Question 3.

Revision of recommendations on COVID-19 vaccination for people who have recovered from COVID-19.

Position of the Ukrainian NITAG (amendments to the NITAG protocol dated 19.01.2021):

Vaccination of persons with a history of documented COVID-19 infection may be postponed for 6 (six) months from the time the person had COVID-19.

At the request of a person eligible for vaccination (e.g., belonging to the priority group), they can be inoculated earlier than 6 (six) months period provided the availability of vaccine doses for the persons in this priority group who do not have a documented COVID-19 history.

The minimum interval between the time a person recovered from COVID-19 and vaccine administration is determined by the end of the isolation period.

These recommendations should be considered as interim and, as such that can be amended in the event of data update, provided they are not in conflict with current vaccine instructions.