WHO recommendations on the composition of the 2013/14 influenza virus vaccines in the northern hemisphere

The World Health Organization (WHO) published recommendations on the composition of the trivalent vaccines for use in the 2013/14 influenza season in the northern hemisphere [1].

WHO recommended that the 2013/14 trivalent influenza vaccines contain the following:

- an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09-like virusa;
- an A(H3N2) virus antigenically like the cell-propagated prototype virus A/Victoria/361/2011b;
- a B/Massachusetts/2/2012-like virus.

WHO recommends that quadrivalent vaccines containing two influenza B viruses contain the above three viruses and a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virusc.

WHO also recommended that A/Texas/50/2012 is used as the A(H3N2) vaccine component because of antigenic changes in earlier A/Victoria/361/2011-like vaccine viruses (such as IVR-165) resulting from adaptation to propagation in eggs.

As in previous years, national or regional authorities approve the composition and formulation of vaccines used in each country. National public health authorities are also responsible for making recommendations regarding the use of the vaccine.

References