DIFFERENTIATING BETWEEN LIVE ATTENUATED SEASONAL AND 2009 H1N1 MONOVALENT INFLUENZA VACCINES

General Information

The pre-filled, single-use sprayers of live attenuated seasonal influenza vaccine (FluMist®) and 2009 H1N1 monovalent influenza vaccine, both manufactured by MedImmune, look similar. Health care providers who plan to vaccinate patients with a dose of the injectable seasonal influenza vaccine as well as a dose of the new 2009 H1N1 intranasal vaccine (or vice versa) should be careful to differentiate between the two to avoid administration errors.

1. Differentiate Packaging

When vaccine arrives at your practice, check the packaging to differentiate which one is seasonal influenza vaccine (FluMist®) and which one is the 2009 H1N1 monovalent vaccine.
Each tray of pre-filled live attenuated vaccine contains five pre-filled intranasal sprayers. The removable dust covers for seasonal influenza vaccine is labeled as “FluMist 2009-2010 Formula” and for 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine as “Influenza A (H1N1) 2009 Monovalent Vaccine Live, Intranasal.”

Once the dust covers have been removed, store the FluMist® and the 2009 H1N1 monovalent vaccine on different shelves of the refrigerator that are clearly labeled or in separate refrigerators if possible. The same should be done with the injectable formulations.

Use separate coolers when transporting the FluMist® and the 2009 H1N1 monovalent vaccines to clinics.
3. Check Intranasal Sprayer Labels

If feasible, have two staff independently check each other when vaccines are prepared for shipment to an offsite immunization clinic and/or at the time of administration.