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## Q Fever information Sheet

**What is Q fever?** Q fever is an illness caused by the bacteria *Coxiella burnetii* which is transmitted by animals. Q fever can cause a severe flu-like illness, chronic fatigue and other serious complications. Q Fever vaccination offers highly effective prevention.

### People at risk of contracting Q fever include:

1. People working with cattle, sheep, goats and their products.
2. People working with wildlife (e.g. kangaroos), feral or domestic animals
3. People who live, work or visit at-risk environments or in close proximity to them.

**About Q fever Vaccination:-** Q fever is a safe inactivated vaccine, with similar rates of allergy/skin irritation to other vaccinations. However, if it is administered to someone who has previously had Q fever it can cause severe side effects. To avoid this every patient will undergo pre-vaccination screening with a blood and skin test.

**Cost of Vaccination:-** The total cost of Q fever vaccination is \$300. \$150 for the first consultation (\$36 Medicare rebate) and \$150 for the vaccination at the second consultation (if required). This cost of the vaccination is tax deductible for at-risk occupations.

**How do I get Vaccinated?** Two appointments are required, the second booked exactly ONE WEEK later.

1. *First appointment:-* Your doctor will assess your risk of Q fever, ensure it is appropriate for you and arrange a blood test. Blood collection must occur **BEFORE** the skin test is administered. Skin testing is where a tiny dose of the vaccine is administered to your forearm.
2. *Second appointment:-* Exactly 1 week later your skin test will be reviewed. If the test is negative (no skin lump), and your blood test normal then the Q fever vaccination can be administered. It takes two weeks for the vaccination to become effective. If you consent, we can upload record of the vaccination to the Q-fever register for future reference and/or we can provide an immunisation record card.

**Who cannot have the vaccination?** Vaccination is not advised for the following groups. Discuss with your doctor if you have any concerns about your ability to have the vaccination.

- Children under 15 years of age
- Previous history of Q fever or previous Q fever vaccination
- Hypersensitivity to egg
- Pregnant women
- Immunosuppressed patients