Background

The Pfizer Comirnaty™ vaccine is in short supply globally and vaccine resources are scarce. Each vial contains at least 5 doses however, when low dead-space (LDS) syringes and/or needles are used, a 6th full dose may be extracted for administration.

The Commonwealth have procured Vernacare™ single use LDS needles (25G, 25mm) for use in those sites administering the Pfizer Comirnaty™ vaccine. These LDS needles:

- are to be used only for the Pfizer Comirnaty™ vaccine;
- have relevant TGA approval and have been issued with the clinical guidance detailed below.

Considerations for clinical use

- The Vernacare™ LDS needle can be used with either luer slip or luer lock syringes supplied within Queensland Health.
- Care needs to be taken when “threading” the LDS needle onto the syringe to ensure a secure connection and avoid leakage.
- Some resistance can be felt, so the needle needs to be firmly held in place with pressure. Continue to apply pressure whilst slightly twisting clockwise until secure.
- Note: The Vernacare™ LDS needle is not appropriate for use on a bariatric recipient as a 38mm needle length is recommended as per the Australian Immunisation Handbook.

Figure 1 Vernacare™ single use Low Dead-Space Needles (LDS) (25G, 25mm)