

## **Variability in National Guidance for TAK-003: A Comparative Analysis by the International Society of Travel Medicine (ISTM) Vaccine Guidance Task Force**

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**Background:** New vaccines frequently differ across countries in licensing timelines, availability, and speed at which guidance is issued. Recent changes in the global advisory landscape - including restructuring of the U.S. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices – have raised concerns about the trustworthiness of guidance. Consequently, clinicians may consult vaccine guidance from multiple countries when advising travellers. The ISTM appointed a task force of experts from countries with strong national immunisation advisory groups to share insights. This project aims to compare national guidance for the TAK-003 (Qdenga) dengue vaccine.

**Method:** The Task Force emailed advisory committee representatives from countries with high-volume outbound travelers to complete a structured survey that captured TAK-003 licensing status, advisory body characteristics, serostatus-specific recommendations, guidance for vaccine use, evidence review processes, and vaccine access and pricing. Respondents provided exact recommendation wording and relevant URLs. Data were collated and analysed to identify alignment and divergence.

**Results:** Surveyed European countries had licensed TAK-003 and issued national recommendations; Australia's review was ongoing; Canada and U.S. have not licensed the vaccine. Advisory bodies consistently recommended TAK-003 for travellers with laboratory-confirmed prior dengue, while approaches for other populations of travelers (e.g. seronegative, unknown serostatus) varied (Table). Retrospective serology was generally not advised; reported costs ranged from USD 100-230 per dose.

**Conclusions:** Substantial heterogeneity exists in approach to dengue-naïve travellers and evidence for previous dengue infection among national TAK-003 guidance. Understanding these similarities and differences supports clearer, more consistent travel medicine counselling especially when travelers encounter conflicting online information.