Q: Can I administer this vaccine?  

A: Most healthcare professionals can administer this vaccine, including:

- Pregnant women
- People with asthma (however not severe asthma or active wheezing)
- Other people at an increased risk of influenza complications (e.g. people with diabetes, chronic heart disease or kidney failure)

Severely immunosuppressed people should not administer the vaccine as the risk of reaction from the environment, while expected to be low, is unknown.

Other healthcare workers who have less severe immunosuppression or are pregnant should follow normal clinical practice to avoid inhaling the vaccine and ensure that they themselves are appropriately vaccinated.

For full prescribing information please see the SmPC available at www.medicines.org.uk

References:
Check the vaccine
Before the vaccine is administered:
Check its appearance
This can vary, but should fit the following description: colourless to pale yellow, clear to opalescent suspension with or without small white particles.
Check the expiry date
The vaccine has a shelf life of 18 weeks. Always check the expiry date (day, month and year) on individual sprayers before administration. Discard any unused vaccine at the end of the vaccination season to prevent use of expired vaccine.
Please note: Personal protective equipment (e.g. gloves and masks) are not required.

Administration of Fluenz Tetra nasal spray vaccine
Fluenz Tetra is administered as a nasal spray; it must not be injected.

Prepare the applicator
Prepare the applicator by removing the rubber tip protector.
Do not remove the dose-divider clip at the other end of the applicator. This splits the 0.2 ml dose so that an equal 0.1 ml quantity can be delivered to both nostrils.

Position the applicator
With the recipient in an upright position, place the tip just inside the first nostril to ensure the vaccine is delivered into the nose.

Depress the plunger
With a single motion, depress the plunger as quickly as possible until the dose-divider clip stops it going any further.
The recipient can breathe normally when they are receiving the vaccine, they do not have to actively inhale or sniff.
Please note: The vaccine does not need to be re-administered if the patient sneezes, or blows their nose following administration.

Remove the dose-divider clip
In order to administer the vaccine to the second nostril, pinch the dose-divider clip to remove it from the applicator.

Spray into the other nostril
Place the tip just inside the second nostril and with a single motion depress the plunger as quickly as possible to deliver the remaining 0.1 ml dose of the vaccine.
Please note: More air is released with the vaccine dose in the second depression. Therefore, it may feel like the second dose is larger than the first.
Make sure any used product or waste material is disposed of in accordance with local requirements for medical waste.

Administration FAQs
Q When should a second dose be administered?
A The Summary of Product Characteristics for Fluenz Tetra states that for children who have not previously been vaccinated against seasonal influenza, a second dose of Fluenz Tetra should be given after an interval of at least 4 weeks. The use of Fluenz Tetra should be based on official recommendations. Please refer to The Green Book, Chapter 19 for guidance where these differ to the Fluenz Tetra license indication.

Q What happens if the recipient receives too much or too little vaccine?
A If a recipient receives too much, or too little, vaccine this is classed as an adverse event and should be reported. Reporting forms and information can be found at www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard. Adverse events should also be reported to AstraZeneca on 0800 783 0033.
In occasional reports, where twice the recommended dose of the vaccine has been administered, adverse reactions reported were similar to those seen with the recommended single dose.

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