

Iomai wins OK to start flu vaccine trials

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Federal regulators have cleared **Iomai** to start up the first phase of trials of its flu vaccine patch later this month.

The Gaithersburg company plans to recruit up to 300 healthy people to receive either a dose of the traditional vaccine shot or wear the bandage-sized Iomai patch.

Iomai will then compare results from the two treatments to determine whether the needle-free vaccine patch is safe and effective in blocking the flu.

The company uses technology that carries the vaccine through outer-layer skin cells into lymph nodes within the body to bolster its immune system.

"Public health officials have said they plan to more than double the number of people who receive an annual flu vaccination, and we believe our patch can play a crucial role," says Stanley Erck, president and CEO of Iomai (NASDAQ: IOMI), in a statement.

The company expects to begin the second phase of studies on a similar needle-free flu vaccine patch for the elderly before the year ends. It has already started signing up patients traveling to Mexico and Guatemala for Phase II trials of another vaccine patch under development that prevents E. coli infection and diarrhea.

Iomai's stock price had received a 4 percent jump in trading today to sell as high as \$4.17. But by an hour before closing, it had settled to \$3.91, a 2 percent decline from the previous \$4 closing price.