

CHANGES IN IMMUNISATION SCHEDULE FROM 1 JULY 2018

Please distribute this information to all practice or clinic staff



Health

- 1. Pneumococcal (Prevenar 13):** The third dose of pneumococcal vaccine will now be given at 12 months (moved from 6 month schedule point). Children with at risk medical conditions will receive an additional dose at 6 months of age.
- 2. Meningococcal ACWY (Nimenrix):** A vaccine that protects against 4 serogroups (A, C, W, Y) of meningococcal disease will now be given to children at 12 months of age replacing Menitorix (meningococcal C – Hib combination).
- 3. *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Act-HIB):** The Hib component of the Menitorix vaccine currently administered at 12 months of age will now be given as the monovalent vaccine, Act-HIB, at 18 months of age.

PNEUMOCOCCAL

- The third dose of pneumococcal vaccine will now be given at 12 months except in children with at risk medical conditions. The first and second doses of pneumococcal vaccine will continue to be given at 6 weeks and 4 months (two dose primary course) followed by a booster dose at 12 months of age.
- Children with medical conditions associated with an increased risk of invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) will still receive the 6 month dose, and continue to have a booster dose at 12 months (i.e. doses at 6 weeks, 4, 6 and 12 months).
- Children born between 1 July 2017 and 31 December 2017 without increased risk of IPD can receive a total of 4 doses of pneumococcal vaccine during the transition. Parents should be reassured that this is safe. For these children, the 12 month vaccine is funded, but is not required to be considered fully immunised for family assistance payments.

MENINGOCOCCAL

- Currently, children receive a combined meningococcal C-Hib vaccine (Menitorix) at 12 months.
- From 1 July 2018, children will receive a meningococcal vaccine containing serogroups A, C, W and Y at 12 months of age, replacing Menitorix. This will be supplied as Nimenrix vaccine.
- There is no catch-up program for this vaccine as it is a 'vaccine replacement'. Children who have already received their 12 month meningococcal C vaccine prior to 1 July 2018 are not eligible to receive the meningococcal ACWY vaccine under the National Immunisation Program (NIP) but may purchase it from the private market. Care should be taken to ensure that there is a minimum interval of 8 weeks from their last meningococcal vaccine dose.

HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZAE TYPE B

- Children will now receive their fourth dose of *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) vaccine as a monovalent vaccine (Act-HIB) at 18 months of age (Hib is no longer combined with meningococcal C at 12 months). They will continue to receive their primary course doses at 6 weeks, 4 and 6 months (Infanrix Hexa).
- Children born between 1 January 2017 and 30 June 2017 who received their fourth dose at 12 months do not require the additional dose of Hib at 18 months to be considered fully immunised. However these children can receive an additional funded dose at 18 months (total of 5 doses of Hib). Parents should be reassured that this is safe, but not required to be considered fully immunised for family assistance payments.

The new vaccines will be available to order via the online system from next week. A hard copy of the schedule will also be delivered next week and a number of FAQs are being developed and will be available soon from: www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Schedule-Changes.

Contact your local public health unit on 1300 066 055 for any questions.

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