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### **For further Information on the Immunisation Program:**

#### **Postal address:**

Immunisation Program,  
17/120 Spencer Street,  
Melbourne 3000

Phone: 1300 882 008

Fax: (03) 9637 4653 or  
(03) 9637 4186

#### **Email:**

immunisation@dhs.vic.gov.au

#### **Webpage:**

www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation

## School Entry Immunisation Certificate

From the 23 August 2004 the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) will produce a child history statement, which can be used as a school entry immunisation certificate. In Victoria, it is a legal requirement to provide a school entry immunisation certificate on enrolment into primary school.

**This means children should be given their 4 year old vaccines in a timely manner and the record of vaccination must be submitted to the ACIR promptly.** When a child is fully vaccinated, including the 4 year old scheduled vaccines, the family will be sent a child history statement from ACIR that states: **'This child has received all vaccines required by 5 years of age.'** This statement can be presented to primary school on enrolment as a school entry immunisation certificate.

Local councils will continue to provide the school entry immunisation certificate for families whose immunisations are outside the routine schedule.

Therefore a school entry immunisation certificate can **only** be provided by either ACIR or local council.

## Government Funded Pneumococcal Vaccine

From 1 January 2005, the Commonwealth Government will provide free pneumococcal vaccines to protect the highest risk groups for invasive pneumococcal disease ie:

- Children under 2 years of age (commencing from 2 months old).
- Adults 65 years of age and over.

The childhood pneumococcal vaccine is called **Prevenar** and it will be part of the National Immunisation Program (NIP) to be administered at 2, 4 and 6 months of age. Prevenar vaccine will also be funded for all children less than 2 years of age as a catch up program. Children less than 5 years of age with a medical risk factor will still require an extra booster dose of Prevenar and Pneumovax 23 vaccine.

The adult pneumococcal vaccine is called **Pneumovax 23**. The Department of Human Services, Victoria has funded this vaccine for people aged 65 years and over since 1998 however supply of this stock should be more readily available with the vaccine now being funded by the Commonwealth Government.

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The following information in the table is a summary of the recommendations, reason for use and doses required for the Prevenar and Pneumovax 23 vaccine supplied by DHS. The Australian Immunisation Handbook (AIH) 8th Edition 2003 also recommends the vaccine be given to other individuals with specific medical risk factors however the vaccine is not free and must be purchased privately.

<p><b>Pnemovax 23 (23vPPV)</b> (Polysaccharide vaccine) (CSL)</p>	<p><i>Conflict with Product Information (PI):</i> 23vPPV is licensed for use only in children over 24 months of age but NHMRC considers that it can be used from 18 months of age in children who have previously received the 7vPCV</p>
<p><b>Recommendations</b></p>	<p>65 years of age and over</p> <p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 years and over</p> <p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 to 49 years with risk factors</p> <p>Children at 4 to 5 years of age with a medical risk factor as a booster dose following previous Prevenar doses as listed in the AIH 8th Edition, page 229.</p>
<p><b>Reason for use</b></p>	<p>At least 90% of healthy adults respond to the 23 serotypes in the vaccine that are responsible for most IPD cases in adults in Australia</p>
<p><b>Doses required</b></p>	<p>A single dose is given for non-indigenous adults 65 years and older and a single booster dose 5 years after the first dose.</p> <p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults 15 to 49 years with risk factors: revaccination 5 years after the first dose, then again at 50 years or 10 years after the first revaccination, whichever comes later</p> <p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults 50 years and older: A single booster dose 5 years after the first dose</p>



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<p><b>Prevenar (7vPCV)</b> (Conjugate vaccine) (Wyeth)</p>	<p><i>Conflict with Product Information (PI):</i> The PI recommends an extra dose of 7vPCV however the NH&amp;MRC schedule considers 1 dose less than that stated in the PI for children who are not at high risk for IPD</p>
<p><b>Recommendations</b></p>	<p><b>Free:</b> Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from 2 months of age to less than 2 years old. Children with medical risk factors less than 5 years of age. Medical conditions are listed in the AIH 8th Edition, page 227. Given at: 2, 4 and 6 months of age with other scheduled vaccines. Or 'catch up' if older.</p> <p><b>Not Free:</b> All other children from 2 months of age to less than 2 years old. Can be given up to the 5th birthday.</p>
<p><b>Reason for use</b></p>	<p>Protection against Invasive Pneumococcal Disease (IPD). Greater than 95% protective efficacy against IPD due to the 7 serotypes in the vaccine</p> <p>Highest incidence of invasive disease is in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 year olds (117 per 100,000),</li> <li>• Infants (80 per 100,000), and declines thereafter-</li> <li>• 2 year olds (55 per 100,000),</li> <li>• 3 year olds (26 per 100,000),</li> <li>• 4 year olds (19 per 100,000).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Doses required</b> (Doses given 2 months apart)</p>	<p><b>3 doses</b> are given between the ages of 2 and 6 months.</p> <p><b>2 doses</b> are given between the ages of 7 and 17 months.</p> <p><b>1 dose</b> from 18 months to 2 years.</p> <p>Children with medical risk factors require an additional dose as listed in the AIH 8th Edition, page 229.</p>

References: The Australian Immunisation Handbook 8th Edition 2003, 3.18 Pneumococcal Infections  
NCIRS National Centre for Immunisation research and Surveillance, Newsletter July 2004



## Pneumococcal Vaccine and Medical Risk Factors in Children

Children under 5 years of age with the following medical risk factors as listed are at higher risk for invasive pneumococcal disease. They are eligible to receive free pneumococcal vaccine if they are less than 5 years of age. The following table shows the doses of vaccines and the booster doses of both Prevenar and Pneumovax 23 required. To access these vaccines for a child with a medical risk factors please call DHS on 1300 882 008 to discuss.

- Congenital immune deficiency including symptomatic IgG subclass or isolated IgA deficiency but excluding children where monthly immunoglobulin infusion is required;
- Disease associated with immunosuppressive therapy or radiation therapy (including corticosteroid therapy equivalent to greater than 2mg/kg of prednisone for more than 2 weeks) where there is sufficient immune reconstitution for vaccine response to be expected;
- Compromised splenic function due to sickle haemoglobinopathies or congenital or acquired asplenia;
- HIV infection before and after development of AIDS;
- Renal failure or relapsing or persistent nephrotic syndrome;
- Down's Syndrome;
- Cardiac disease associated with cyanosis or cardiac failure;
- Proven or presumptive cerebrospinal fluid leak;
- All premature infants with chronic lung disease;
- All infants born less than 28 weeks gestation;
- Cystic fibrosis;
- Insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus;
- Intracranial shunts and cochlear implants.

### Children under 5 years of age with a medical risk condition

Age in months at first dose	Doses *given 2 months apart	Booster doses required
2 - 6	3*	Prevenar at 12 months of age plus Pneumovax 23 at 4-5 years of age
7 - 11	2*	Prevenar at 12 months of age or at least 2 months after the last dose (whichever is later) plus Pneumovax 23 between 4-5 years of age
12 - 59	2*	Give Pneumovax 23 between 4 - 5 years of age

# IMMUNISATION PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

## Australian Childhood Immunisation Register

### *What is the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR)?*

It is the national database of all vaccines given to children up to 7 years of age. It acts as a record of vaccines administered and is used to monitor vaccine coverage in Australia. It is also linked to the eligibility for parents to receive the Australian Government's family assistance payments, the Child Care Benefit and the Maternity Immunisation Allowance.

### *How do I contact ACIR ?*

Contact ACIR by phoning **1800 653 809** to discuss any immunisation records for your clients under 7 years of age. Families can also ring this number to review their child's immunisation status.

### *What vaccines should be reported to ACIR?*

All vaccines given to children under 7 years of age should be reported in a timely manner to ACIR. This should also include the birth dose of hepatitis B as maternity hospitals are not able to report to ACIR as yet.

### *What if the child is over 7 years of age?*

For a child over 7 years of age, the immunisation records are held with the immunisation provider who supplied the vaccination such as local councils or medical clinics. There is no national database of vaccines for people over 7 years of age.

### *Who has the record of immunisation when vaccines are given at school?*

School based immunisation is undertaken by local councils and it is the local council who holds the record of immunisation. If the vaccine was administered by doctors, then the record is held by the medical clinic.

## Special Interest Group for Nurse Immunisers

An exciting new SIG for Immunisation Nurses has been formed and invites accredited immunisation nurses to its inaugural meeting.

Date: Wednesday 1st September

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: ANF Boardroom, 2nd Floor, 540 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne

Guest Speaker: Spyros Boukouvalas (Wyeth)

Topic: Prevenar and Pneumococcal Disease

Further Details: All accredited immunisation nurses on the LaTrobe University Databank should receive a letter and INSIG application form in the mail.

Contacts: Rosemary Morey 0414966214

Lucy Cosentino 0412771660

Website: [www.anfvic.ans.au](http://www.anfvic.ans.au)

## Vaccine Refrigerator Storage

With the introduction of free pneumococcal vaccine into clinics from January 2005, vaccine refrigerator space will be at a premium.

One of the guidelines for vaccine cold chain maintenance is to keep vaccines in their original packaging. Consideration will need to be given to vaccine storage and the refrigerator space when the number of routine scheduled vaccines is increasing.



# IMMUNISATION PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

## MMR Vaccine

Measles, mumps and rubella vaccine is supplied as the **Priorix** brand. MMR2 vaccine brand will no longer be supplied by DHS. Priorix contains no porcine gelatin therefore there are no issues with pork products and religious beliefs. Priorix has also proven to be less painful for the recipient through research and anecdotal evidence.

## Polio Vaccination Catch up

If there are no previous documented doses or less than 3 documented doses of either OPV or IPV vaccine, commence a catch up program. Give 3 doses (or equivalent to equal 3 doses) of either OPV or IPV (following consent and use of the pre immunisation checklist) at least 4 weeks apart. If the person is less than 4 years of age, give the fourth booster dose at the fourth birthday and ensure it is administered at least 4 weeks after the 3rd dose.

IPV and OPV vaccine are interchangeable.

## Preterm Babies and Immunisation

Some smaller preterm babies require extra doses of vaccine, as they do not respond as well as term babies. Extra doses of Hib, hepatitis B and pneumococcal vaccine are required. If the infant is still in hospital then OPV is given at the time of discharge (or IPV can be used). As long as a preterm baby is well and there are no contraindications to vaccination, immunise the baby according to the recommended schedule at the usual chronological age. The Australian Immunisation Handbook 8th Edition 2003, page 92 details the recommendations to follow for the age of the child and when it should be given an extra dose of Hib, hepatitis B and pneumococcal vaccine.

## Immunisation web site update

The Immunisation website at [www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation) has had new information added. Available on line now are 2 new translated immunisation fact sheets in 13 community languages. The fact sheets cover both disease and vaccine information and are for Chickenpox and Childhood Pneumococcal disease.

The school Entry Immunisation Certificate pamphlet has also been updated to reflect new changes to the provision of the certificate. The updated pamphlet is called **STARTING PRIMARY SCHOOL?** This also is translated into 13 community languages.

The website also contains a new Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) fact sheet for the school entry immunisation certificate. This provides commonly asked questions and answers with regard to obtaining a certificate for enrolment into primary school.

## DHS/CSL Account Number

To avoid delay in receiving your vaccine order, be sure to include on the vaccine order form your DHS/CSL account number in the appropriate box. If you do not know your account number please ring the Immunisation Program on 1300 882 008.

For further Information on the Immunisation Program:  
Postal address: Immunisation Program, 17/120 Spencer Street, Melbourne 3000  
Phone: 1300 882 008  
Fax: (03)9637 4653 or (03) 9637 4186  
Email: [immunisation@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:immunisation@dhs.vic.gov.au)  
Webpage: [www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation)

