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To: Primary Care Teams, Health Professionals

From: Kath Blair, Manager, Immunisation Team

Subject: **National Immunisation Schedule Change 1 July 2020, Immunisation promotion, Influenza vaccine eligibility**



Changes to the National Immunisation Schedule will begin to take effect from 1 July 2020, and be completed on 1 October 2020, at which point a new vaccination event at age 12 months will be created. New resources to support the schedule change will be available to order in September 2020.

The Immunisation Advisory Centre hosted a webinar on 9 June 2020 on the changes – it was recorded and is available to watch at <https://vimeo.com/427515531> for those who were unable to join in live.

1 July 2020 PCV dose change and brand changes

From 1 July, the PCV10 vaccine regimen and a number of vaccine brands in the National Immunisation Schedule will change.

PCV10

- PCV10 will no longer be given at age 3 months from 1 July 2020. PCV10 vaccine will change from a 3+1 (three primary doses with a booster dose) to a 2+1 (two primary doses with booster) primary series.
- From 1 July 2020, children who have not yet had their 6 week or 3 month immunisations will be on the 2+1 series (ie 6 weeks, 5 months plus booster dose). The booster dose will move from 15 months to 12 months **after 1 October** for all children, including those who have had 3 primary doses.

PCV13

The special groups pneumococcal 13 (PCV13) vaccine will continue to be given at 6 weeks, 3 months, 5 months with the booster at 15 months. The booster dose will move from 15 months to 12 months after 1 October.

Brand changes

- There will be brand changes for the varicella vaccine and Hepatitis B vaccines, and Tdap will replace ADT vaccine.
- Meningococcal C will only be available for high risk children younger than 9 months.
- High risk children 9 months and older are eligible for MenACWY.

These changes do not affect the timing of vaccination.

From 1 July to 30 September 2020, practices will continue to receive the current vaccine brands until these vaccine stocks run out. As current brand stocks are used, orders will be filled with the new stock brands. From 1 October 2020 providers will only be supplied with the new vaccine brands.

Vaccine changes	Current schedule		1 July 2020 schedule
PCV10	6W, 3M, 5M, 15M	⇒	6W, 5M, 15M (until 1 October)
PCV13 (special groups)	6W, 3M, 5M, 15M	⇒	No change
Diphtheria/Tetanus	ADT at 45Y, 65Y	⇒	Tdap at 45Y (for those who have not previously had four tetanus containing vaccinations), 65Y
Tetanus prone wound	ADT Delisted 1 Oct 2020	⇒	Tdap – tetanus prone wound
MenCCV (indication)	NeisVac-C	⇒	Only available for high risk children under 9 months
Varicella	Varilrix	⇒	Varivax
Hepatitis B	HBvaxPRO (already effectively replaced by Engerix-B because of supply issues)	⇒	Engerix-B (only funded hepatitis B vaccine)

1 October 2020

The 1 October 2020 update will include a new 12-month event. This new event enables both PCV (booster dose) and MMR dose one to be given at 12 months, and MMR dose two, Hib and varicella to be given at 15 months.

Event	Current Schedule		1 October 2020 schedule
12 months	-	⇒	MMR dose 1 PCV10 (or PCV13 for special groups)
15 months	MMR dose 1 PCV10 (or PCV13 for special groups) Hib Varicella	⇒	MMR dose 2 Hib Varicella
4 years	MMR dose 2 DTaP-IPV	⇒	DTaP-IPV

We will provide further details on transitioning over the coming months.

Routine vaccination promotion

The Ministry of Health and HPA are currently promoting routine childhood vaccination following a decrease in timely vaccination over lockdown. For more information and campaign materials see www.hpa.org.nz/campaign/protect-your-wh%C4%81nau-%E2%80%93-immunise-on-time

Influenza vaccine eligibility

PHARMAC has confirmed that people with respiratory conditions that are prescribed a preventer inhaler meet the eligibility criteria for a funded influenza vaccination, regardless of whether or not they routinely collect the inhaler (ie, are adherent with treatment). PHARMAC acknowledges that there may be barriers resulting in some people with respiratory conditions not collecting their preventer inhaler but that this does not affect their eligibility to receive a funded influenza vaccine.

If you have any queries about anything in this update, please get in touch at immunisation@health.govt.nz