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Immunisation News November 2006

FREE Meningococcal C Vaccine for Adolescents & Adults

Free vaccine is available for those born since 1984. It is particularly important to target people who left school before 2004, before they had the opportunity to receive this vaccine in the school program.

HNE Population Health encourages all immunisation providers to strongly recommend this free vaccine for this age group and script for any other client who shows an interest in receiving the vaccine

4 YEAR VACCINATIONS

Vaccines are due at 4 years, not prior to school.

Population Health has free posters available to remind parents that vaccines are due at 4 years. Please contact us for copies.

Vaccine Cold Chain

Summer Blackouts - Be prepared

With the increasing summer temperatures not only is it more likely that vaccine fridges will be exposed to higher ambient temperatures but blackouts are also likely due to storms and high energy demands.

- **prevention**
 - have fridge connected to emergency power if possible
 - educate **ALL** staff – everyone can check temperature when walking past fridge
 - move fridge to a position that is not affected by ambient temperature – no fridge should be on an external wall; in an air-conditioned room if possible.
 - monitor and record fridge temperatures **twice daily**, as soon as you arrive and just before leaving. This may result in some vaccines being able to be rescued before they are damaged by inappropriate temperatures.
- **make plans for storage of vaccines in the event of a black out**
 - this may require that someone takes the vaccines home, but min/max thermometers must be used and family members instructed on reducing fridge door openings.
 - have an agreement with another practice who is not on the same electricity grid to take them via esky.
 - have emergency transport containers ready
 - ice bricks in adequate amounts need to be ready, frozen for temporary storage

PHONE CALLS FOR CLINICAL ADVICE

Please note that there is always someone available within office hours to take phone calls for clinical advice when the patient is present. Ask Hunter New England Population Health switch to transfer your call to one of the immunisation team members.

MEASLES – The gold standard test for measles is IgM serology. If you suspect measles please contact the public health unit for advice.

PERTUSSIS CONTAINING VACCINES

Infanrix *hexa*, Infanrix Penta (private script) and Infanrix-IPV – are licensed in Australia only for children less than 8 years

Boostrix – is only licensed in Australia for individuals aged over 8 years

RECOMMENDATIONS

Boostrix – currently a once only dose is recommended

For those who require a full course of diphtheria/tetanus, follow the initial dose of Boostrix with two doses of ADT (dT) 4 weeks apart.

TETANUS PRONE WOUNDS – see page 265 of the Immunisation Handbook

Remember there is **NO minimum time gap** between Boostrix and a previous dose of ADT.

Combined BOOSTRIX IPV - is also available on private script – this is useful for people being vaccinated for travel.

Varicella notification to ACIR to ensure Centrelink payments

PROVIDER PAYMENTS & CENTRELINK PAYMENTS

- **If a child has had chicken pox or shingles** (needs to be diagnosed by GP) you need a completed medical contra-indication form or **doctors letter (with letterhead)** sent to ACIR
- **It is safe to vaccinate a child with varicella vaccine even with history of varicella disease**
- If a parent refuses the varicella vaccine they will need to complete a conscientious objection form sent to ACIR to receive their Centrelink payment.
- If the provider hasn't diagnosed varicella in the child and doesn't wish to sign a letter they can fill out an Immunisation History Form – tick the box (see below) and put the child's 4th birthdate in the section 'Date next vaccination due'.

OR	Immunisation history is not available but I believe the child identified on this form is age appropriately immunised or is following an approved catch-up schedule.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Date next vaccination due	<input type="text" value="/ /"/>
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- Provider and parent payments will be affected in the future if this is not documented on ACIR.

NCIRS Fact Sheets – the following are new:

- Measles-mumps-rubella vaccine, inflammatory bowel disease and autism
- Thiomersal (mercury-based preservative)
- HPV vaccines for Australians
- Rotavirus vaccines for Australian children
- Pertussis vaccine for Australians

http://www.ncirs.usyd.edu.au/facts/f-fact_sheets.html

DIARY NOTES

29 & 30 November 2006 - Newcastle Two-day Immunisation Course Workshop

These workshops are to assist RNs complete the immunisation course. Please talk to your non-authorised colleagues and if they are interested in attending, they should contact HNE Population Health.

Remaining HNEAHS Immunisation Updates for 2006

Location	Date	Type	Time	Venue	RSVP Date
Taree	23 November 2006	Child & Adult	0830 to 1300	Education Room Taree CHC	23/10/06
Tamworth	4 December 2006	Child & Adult	1300 to 1700	UNE Building, Fitzroy St Tamworth	20/11/06
Narrabri	5 December 2006	Child & Adult	0900 to 1230	Meeting room, Narrabri Hospital	21/11/06
Moree	5 December 2006	Child & Adult	1400 to 1730	Crane Ward CHC (next to Flo Smith's)	21/11/06
Inverell	6 December 2006	Child & Adult	0900 to 1230	Red Room: Inverell CHC (rehab building)	22/11/06
Glen Innes	6 December 2006	Child & Adult	1400 to 1730	Room 2: Glen Innes CHC	22/11/06
Armidale	7 December 2006	Child & Adult	0900 to 1300	Conference Room 2: Armidale CHC	23/11/06

Please ensure all (even New England RNs) registration enquires and lodgement of registration forms are directed to Penny Cox on 02 4985 5212, Fax, 02 4924 6490 or email on penny.cox@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au