

Vaccination for people with functional or anatomical asplenia

Information for Immunisation Providers

Extra vaccines recommended and funded under the National Immunisation Program for people with functional or anatomical asplenia including sickle cell disease or other haemoglobinopathies and congenital or acquired asplenia.

Recommendations

Pneumococcal vaccine

Children <12 months

- Four doses of 13vPCV (2, 4, 6* and 12 months)
- One dose of 23vPPV (at age 4-5 years)
- One dose of 23vPPV (5-10 years later)

The youngest age recommended for receiving the first dose of 23vPPV after the required dose(s) of 13vPCV is 4 years.

**Extra dose of 13vPCV additional to what is recommended for healthy children of the same age.*

Children >12 months, adolescents and adults

- One dose of 13vPVC (Prevenar 13[®]) at diagnosis
- One dose 23vPPV (Pneumovax 23[®]) 12 months later, or at age ≥ 4 years (whichever is later).
- One dose 23vPPV (Pneumovax 23[®]) 5-10 years later.

The number of recommended lifetime doses of 23vPPV is now limited to **2 doses** for all people. The doses of 23vPPV received in the past are also counted when deciding how many more are required. If a person has already received at least two doses based on previous recommendations, no further doses of 23vPPV are to be given¹.

Immunogenicity data supports the use of one repeat dose of 23vPPV approximately 5 years after the first 23vPPV dose, but more doses of 23vPPV beyond that have not been shown to provide significant further benefit.

Repeat doses of 23vPPV are associated with higher rates of adverse events, especially injection site reactions. There is also a possibility that additional doses of 23vPPV beyond 2 doses may lead to immune hyporesponsiveness.

¹ Refer to Australian Immunisation Handbook - <https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/>



Meningococcal B and Meningococcal ACWY

Meningococcal B (Bexsero®) and Meningococcal ACWY (Nimenrix®) vaccines are now recommended and funded for people with functional or anatomical asplenia.

Dose recommendations for Meningococcal B (Bexsero®) and Meningococcal ACWY (Nimenrix®) ²

Age at start of vaccination	Dose requirements
6 weeks to 5 months	4 doses (8 weeks between doses; 4 th dose at 12 months of age or 8 weeks after 3 rd dose, whichever is later)
6-11 months	3 doses (8 weeks between doses; 3 rd dose at 12 months of age or 8 weeks after 2 nd dose, whichever is later)
≥12 months	2 doses (8 weeks between doses)

Prophylactic use of paracetamol

Children <2 years of age are recommended to receive prophylactic paracetamol with every dose of Bexsero®. This is because of the increased risk of fever associated with receiving Bexsero®.

Recommended use:

- Give the first dose (15mg/kg/dose) of paracetamol within 30 minutes before, or as soon as practicable after, receiving the vaccine, regardless of whether the child has a fever.
- This can be followed by 2 more doses of paracetamol given 6 hours apart.

It is important to alert parents to the need to buy paracetamol prior to vaccination.

Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) vaccine

Adults and children >5 years of age

- A single dose of Hib vaccine (ActHIB®) is required if the person was not vaccinated in infancy or was incompletely vaccinated.
- Booster doses of Hib vaccine are not required.

Accessibility

If you have difficulty reading a standard printed document and would like an alternative format, please phone 13 22 81.



If English is not your first language and you need the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS), please call 13 14 50.

For further accessibility information, visit: www.health.act.gov.au/accessibility

www.health.act.gov.au | Phone: 132281 | Publication No XXXXX

© Australian Capital Territory, Canberra July 2020

² Booster doses of MenACWY are recommended for people with ongoing increased risk of invasive meningococcal disease. The interval between boosters depends on the age at completion of primary course dose – refer to <https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/>.