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To:	Primary Care Teams, Health Professionals	
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Subject:	National Immunisation Schedule Change, Medtech PMS, New Handbook, ADT Booster, new resources, Impact of COVID-19, meningococcal vaccine	

National Immunisation Schedule change – 1 October 2020

From 1 October, a new vaccination event scheduled at 12 months will be established, to administer MMR dose one and PCV10. The main purpose for this change is to ensure measles control by offering protection as early as possible. The 15 month event will include MMR dose two, Hib and Varicella vaccine, a reduction from four vaccines to three.

2020 childhood schedule for those <5 years old

Age	Vaccine							
	DTaP-IPV-HepB/Hib	Rotavirus	PCV10	MMR1	MMR2	Hib-PRP	Varicella	DTaP-IPV
6 weeks	•	•	•					
3 months	•	•						
5 months	•		•					
12 months			•	•				
15 months					•	•	•	
4 years								•

All children aged under 5 years will be scheduled PCV10 at 12 months and MMR at 12 and 15 months following the schedule change.

To prevent missed doses, please start by recalling your 12 to 14 month patients to receive their 12 month vaccinations before these children turn 15 months where possible, followed by recalling 16 to 23 month olds and then 2 to 4 year olds.

All children under the age of 5 years who have yet to complete PCV10-15M and MMR-4Y doses will now have these scheduled at 12 months. This will mean that MMR dose 2 will show in the PMS schedule as an overdue MMR-12M event. For children who have already had their MMR-15M dose vaccinators enter their second MMR dose against the overdue MMR-12M event.

Update for those using Medtech PMS on implementing the new immunisation schedule

Medtech will be updating the new schedule on 21 November. This means that Medtech PMSs will not automatically be able to issue reminders for MMR vaccinations at age 12 months until 21 November 2020. Practices should recall their children at 12 months to receive their MMR -1 and PCV10 dose 4 and record these by selecting the existing MMR-1 15M and PCV10-4 15M vaccination tasks within the Medtech PMS. Medtech have issued guidance on how to do this on their customer portal – please contact Medtech if you need any further support. These vaccination

administration guides will be available in Medtech's Insight Customer Portal from the following locations:

For Medtech32 customers: <https://insight.medtechglobal.com/downloads/Medtech-32-Training-Guides-and-Manuals/#chapter7>. For Evolution customers: <https://insight.medtechglobal.com/downloads/evolution-training-guides-and-manuals/#chapter14>

Please contact Medtech Support via email (support@medtechglobal.com) or by raising a Help Desk ticket in their Insight Customer Portal if you need further assistance.

After 21 November, practices using Medtech should recall children according to the schedule above.

New Immunisation Handbook

The new 2020 edition of the Immunisation Handbook is available online at <https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/immunisation-handbook-2020> and a printed quick guide to the schedule changes will also be sent to general practices and other providers shortly.

ADT Booster transition to Boostrix

Please continue to use any ADT Booster stock you have in your fridges for vaccination at ages 45 and 65 – claims will still be accepted for this after 1 October 2020.

New resources

Updated resources to support the schedule changes are available to order from HealthEd at www.healthed.govt.nz – select “Immunisations and vaccinations” and order by revision date to find the latest resources.

Impact of COVID-19 response on childhood vaccination

The challenges of the COVID-19 response have had an impact on childhood immunisation rates. PHARMAC advise that orders for many National Immunisation Schedule vaccines have been lower this year than in previous years. Provisional immunisation data for children whose immunisations were due since March 2020 also suggest a decrease in immunisation rates will shortly become apparent in our quarterly national reports. The Ministry is considering how best to support catch up immunisation for this group. Please let us know at immunisation@health.govt.nz of any barriers you have encountered in recalling young children for immunisation, and any successful endeavours you have used to overcome them.

Meningococcal vaccine catch up availability

Meningococcal ACWY vaccine is currently free for all young people aged between 13 and 25, who live in boarding school hostels, tertiary education halls of residence, military barracks and prisons. After 30 November this year, eligibility will change to include only those who are entering their first year of living in such institutions. Please take the opportunity to catch up any of your patients while they are still eligible for this vaccine.

While meningococcal disease notifications have reduced this year, *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup W (MenW) continues to make up a significant proportion of cases. GPs and EDs should be aware of this, and they should be aware that this strain presents atypically and keep a high level of suspicion for the disease. MenW can present with the classical signs of meningococcal disease but also atypically with gastro-intestinal symptoms, as well as pneumonia, septic arthritis, endocarditis or epi/supraglottitis.

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