

December 2014

**IMPORTANT NEWS**

**Re: Changes to the primary childhood immunisation schedule**

Dear Doctor

Further to previous correspondence I am writing to inform you of the introduction of changes to the primary childhood immunisation schedule.

The National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) has recommended changing the meningococcal C (MenC) immunisation schedule in the primary childhood programme from three doses at 4, 6 and 13 months to two doses at 4 and 13 months because of evidence that a single dose of MenC vaccine provides protection for the first year of life.

This new primary childhood immunisation schedule will be introduced **for all babies born on or after July 1<sup>st</sup> 2015**. Further details and new information materials will be developed and sent to you in advance of this date.

**In the interim the current primary childhood schedule as outlined overleaf will continue.**

NIAC also recommended introducing a MenC adolescent booster at 12-13 years due to concerns about waning adolescent immunity. From January 2015 a MenC booster will be offered to students in 1<sup>st</sup> year of second level school in 2014/2015 as part of the HSE school vaccination programme.

Yours sincerely



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Dr Kevin Kelleher

Assistant National Director – Health and Wellbeing – Public Health and Child Health  
Medical Council Registration Number: 19719

Primary Childhood Immunisation Schedule				
	CURRENT SCHEDULE		NEW SCHEDULE	
Date of birth	Babies born up to 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2015		Babies born on or after 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2015	
Age	Immunisations	Comment	Immunisations	Comment
2 months	6 in 1 + PCV	2 injections	6 in 1 + PCV	2 injections
4 months	6 in 1 + Men C	2 injections	6 in 1 + Men C	2 injections
6 months	6 in 1 + PCV + Men C	3 injections	<b>6 in 1 + PCV</b>	<b>2 injections</b>
12 months	MMR + PCV	2 injections	MMR + PCV	2 injections
13 months	Men C + Hib	2 injections	Men C + Hib	2 injections

6 in 1 Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio, Haemophilus influenzae B, Hepatitis B vaccine

Hib Haemophilus influenzae B vaccine

MenC Meningococcal C vaccine

MMR Measles, Mumps, Rubella vaccine

PCV Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine