



Medicine Protocol for the administration of Priorix (MMR - Measles, Mumps and Rubella) live vaccine by registered nurses and registered midwives to children/students in primary/second level school through a School Immunisation Programme.




This medicine protocol is a specific written instruction for the administration of Priorix (MMR –Measles, Mumps and Rubella) vaccine to children/students in primary and second level school by registered nurses and registered midwives. This medicine protocol is valid for the 2024/2025 Health Service Executive (HSE) School Immunisation Programme.

This medicine protocol enables registered nurses and midwives employed in the voluntary and statutory services of the HSE who have undertaken the required education and training programmes to administer Priorix (MMR) vaccine, with reference to and guidance from Nursing & Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI), National Nursing and Midwifery Immunisation Working Group, National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC), National Immunisation Office (NIO), HSE and in accordance with the Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) for Priorix (MMR) vaccine as detailed by the Health Products Regulatory Authority at (HPRA) www.hpra.ie.

- National Immunisation Advisory Committee (2023) *Anaphylaxis: Immediate Management in the Community* available at: https://rcpi.access.preservica.com/uncategorized/IO_a36f9e4b-4c80-432d-8264-546089359925/
- National Immunisation Advisory Committee *Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland*: Royal College of Physicians of Ireland National Immunisation Advisory Committee available at: <https://www.rcpi.ie/Healthcare-Leadership/NIAC/Immunisation-Guidelines-for-Ireland>
- National Immunisation Office (2024/2025) Supporting Information for Staff: Schools Immunisation Programme 2024/2025 available at: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/schoolproghcp/supportingdoc.pdf>
- Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (2015) *Scope of Nursing and Midwifery Practice Framework*. Dublin: Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland available at: <https://www.nmbi.ie/Standards-Guidance>
- Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (2021) *Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Registered Nurses and Registered Midwives*. Dublin: Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland available at: <https://www.nmbi.ie/NMBI/media/NMBI/Code-of-Professional-Conduct-and-Ethics.pdf>
- Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (2020) *Guidance for Registered Nurses and Registered Midwives on Medication Administration*. Dublin: Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland available at: <https://www.nmbi.ie/NMBI/media/NMBI/NMBI-Medication-Administration-2020>
- Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (2022) Standards and guidance for nurses and midwives. Dublin: Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland available at: <https://www.nmbi.ie/Standards-Guidance>
- Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (2022) Practice Standards for Midwives. Dublin: Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland available at: <https://www.nmbi.ie/Standards-Guidance>
- Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (2015) *Recording Clinical Practice. Guidance to Nurses and Midwives*. Dublin: Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland available at: <https://www.nmbi.ie/Standards-Guidance/More-Standards-Guidance/Recording-Clinical-Practice>

“The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland defines medicine protocols as “written directions that allow for the supply and administration of a named medicinal product by a nurse or midwife in identified clinical situations. A medicine protocol involves the authorisation of the nurse/midwife to supply and administer a medicine to groups of patients in a defined situation meeting specific criteria and who may not be individually identified before presentation for treatment. An individually named prescription is not required for the supply and administration of medication when a medication protocol is in effect” (An Bord Altranais, pg 35, 2007).

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Document reference number:	ONMSD 2024-005
1.0 Critical Elements	
Name of Organisation where protocol applies	Health Service Providers across the voluntary and statutory services of the HSE. This Medicine Protocol applies to: Registered nurses and midwives involved in the supply and administration of the Priorix (MMR - Measles, Mumps and Rubella) live vaccine by Registered nurses and Registered midwives to children/students in primary/second level school through a School Immunisation Programme.
Date the protocol comes into effect	September 2024 (For the school year September 2024 – September 2025)
Date for review of protocol	May 2025
Document prepared by	Office of the Nursing and Midwifery Services Director (ONMSD) HSE, in collaboration with the NIO at the request of Dr Éamonn O'Moore, Director of National Health Protection.
Names and Signatures of the employing authority who is authorising the implementation of the protocol <i>"On behalf of the authority employing professionals authorised to administer under this medicine protocol, I have read this medicine protocol and authorise its implementation"</i>	<p>Name: Dr Éamonn O'Moore, Director of National Health Protection, HSE</p> <p>Signature:  Dr Éamonn O'Moore (Jul 15, 2024 12:25 GMT+1)</p> <p>Name: Dr Colm Henry, Chief Clinical Officer, HSE</p> <p>Signature: </p> <p>Name: Dr Geraldine Shaw, Nursing and Midwifery Services Director, HSE</p> <p>Signature: </p>

2.0 Clinical Criteria	
Clinical condition for use of the protocol	The clinical condition for which this medicine protocol has been developed is for the active immunisation against and prevention of measles, mumps and rubella infection.
Circumstances in which the medicine protocol applies	<p>The School Immunisation Programme (SIP) will be delivered annually by the HSE. The aim of the immunisation programme is to complete the measles, mumps and rubella (live) vaccine schedule for children. The MMR vaccine is recommended for all children at 12 months of age and at 4-5 years in the Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland: https://www.rcpi.ie/Healthcare-Leadership/NIAC/Immunisation-Guidelines-for-Ireland</p> <p>If a child has not received a first dose of MMR vaccine, Priorix (MMR) should be given, under this protocol, to a child in junior infants or age equivalent in special schools and home schooled. A second dose of Priorix (MMR) should then be given at least 4 weeks after the first Priorix (MMR) dose. Preferably in a SIP mop up clinic.</p> <p>This medicine protocol also applies in MMR catch up campaigns and outbreaks situations as recommended by NIAC.</p>
Inclusion criteria for children/students treatment using the medicine protocol	<p>Children/Students in primary/second level school or age equivalent in special schools and home schooled students.</p> <p>https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/pubinfo/schoolprog/4in1mmr/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children/students with valid consent. • Students with valid consent given and missed the opportunity to attend the vaccination clinic due to illness or other personal circumstances.
Exclusion criteria for children/ students using the medicine protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anaphylaxis to any of the vaccine constituents. • Child/student who is immunocompromised either due to disease or treatment (see NIAC, Chapter3) • Pregnancy if applicable <p>Precautions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acute severe febrile illness, defer until recovery. • Injection with another live vaccine within the previous four weeks. Two live vaccines can be administered on the same day without causing interference e.g., MMR and Varicella. However, MMR vaccine should not be routinely administered on the same day as yellow fever vaccine as co-administration of these two vaccines can lead to suboptimal antibody responses to yellow fever, mumps and rubella antigens. If rapid protection is required, the vaccines should be given on the same day or at any interval and an additional dose of MMR should be given at least four weeks later. • Recent administration of blood, blood products, HNIG or specific immunoglobulin could prevent vaccine virus replication. MMR should be deferred for specific intervals depending on product received as outlined in Chapter 2 Table 2.6.5. • Tuberculin skin testing should be deferred for at least four weeks after MMR vaccine as the vaccine can reduce the tuberculin response and could give a false negative result. • Students who developed thrombocytopenia within six weeks of their first dose of MMR should undergo serological testing to decide whether a second dose is necessary. The second dose is recommended if the patient is not fully immune to the three component viruses <p>Note: COVID-19 vaccines (except for COVID-19 vaccine given to children aged 6 months-4 years where a 14-day interval is recommended) and other vaccines may be administered at the same time or at any interval.</p>

<p>Actions to be taken for those who are excluded from the Protocol</p>	<p>All children/students meeting exclusion criteria must be referred to the medical practitioner for an individual medical assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document the assessment and action in clinical notes. • Where Priorix (MMR) vaccine is prescribed following medical assessment, the nurse or midwife may administer Priorix (MMR) vaccine within their scope of practice. <p>Note: In determining their scope of practice, nurses and midwives must make judgements about their competency to carry out a role or activity (NMBI, 2015).</p>
<p>Description of circumstances and referral arrangements when further advice or consultation is required</p>	<p>Discuss the student with the Medical Practitioner or lead nurse in the event of:</p> <p>Confirmed or suspected anaphylactic reaction to the vaccine itself or to a constituent of that Vaccine or other clinical concerns.</p>
<p>Documentation required for the implementation of this medicine protocol</p>	<p>A Consent form must be completed by the parent/legal guardian for all children/students who receive the Priorix (MMR) vaccine. Students aged 16 years and over consent on their own behalf. Relevant details including the batch number must be recorded on the consent form.</p> <p>The following documents will be required at each school vaccination session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination session form • Blank Vaccine consent forms • Vaccine Information Leaflets • Patient held record cards/ vaccine passport • HPRA adverse reaction reporting forms • HSE Incident/Near Miss report forms • Tear pads for post vaccination and advice <p>It is the responsibility of each nurse or midwife to be familiar with the appropriate documentation to support the safe administration of Priorix (MMR) vaccine which includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting Information for Staff: School Immunisations Programme 2024/2025 • Medicine Protocol for the administration of Priorix (MMR) vaccine which is a live vaccine by registered nurses and registered midwives to children/students in primary/second level school or equivalent (e.g. home schooled, special schools) through the SIP. <p>NIAC (2023) <i>Anaphylaxis: immediate management in the Community</i> available at: https://rcpi.access.preservica.com/uncategorized/IO_a36f9e4b-4c80-432d-8264-546089359925/</p>

3.0 Name of Medicine	<p>Priorix (MMR - Measles, Mumps and Rubella) live vaccine</p> <p>Dose: 0.5ml</p> <p>Route: Intramuscular injection</p> <p>Site: Deltoid (right arm recommended)</p>
Link to Medicine Details of product information and other data including instructions for supply and administration is available from the Health Products Regulatory Authority at www.hpra.ie	<p>Link to Summary of Product Characteristics: http://www.hpra.ie/img/uploaded/vaccines/SPC_PA1077036001.pdf</p> <p>Link to Patient Information Leaflet: http://www.hpra.ie/img/uploaded/vaccines/PIL_PA1077036001.pdf</p>
Procedure for the reporting and documentation of errors and near misses involving the medication	<p>In the case of medicine errors that directly involve the child/student, i.e. wrong medicine/patient/dose/route being administered or another medicine error, the registered nurse or registered midwife must remain with the child/student and closely monitor them for any adverse reactions.</p> <p>Vital signs should be recorded and the student should be reviewed by the registered nurse/midwife and/ or medical practitioner.</p> <p>The incident must be reported to the relevant line manager as soon as possible. The incident and all actions taken must be promptly recorded and the relevant National Incident Management Report Form completed: https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/nqpsd/qps-incident-management/nims/nirf-01-v12-person-interactive.pdf</p> <p>The child/student parent and/or legal guardian must be informed of the incident. Any suspected adverse reactions associated with medicine errors should be reported to the HPRA as outlined below.</p> <p>Any errors and near misses not involving medication e.g. needle stick injuries, the incident and all actions taken must be promptly recorded on the relevant National Incident Management Report form and forwarded to the relevant line manager as per local policy. Refer 'EMI Tool Kit' https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/EMIToolkit/</p>
Procedure for reporting Adverse Drug Reactions to the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA)	<p>The relevant nursing or midwifery staff should report to the HPRA any suspected adverse reactions, in accordance with criteria outlined by the HPRA. This reporting may be carried out in line at https://www.hpra.ie or through use of the yellow card system which is available in the downloadable format from the HPRA website, or on request from the HPRA.</p>

Resources and equipment required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priorix (MMR) vaccine • Fridge/Cool box with minimum/maximum temperature recording device to monitor the cold chain temperature (between +2°C and +8°C) • Vaccine cool packs • Disposable kidney dishes/coloured trays • Gauze swabs/Plasters • Sharps bins, and bags for disposal of healthcare risk and non-risk waste material. • HSE Policy on the Management of Sharps and Prevention of Sharp Injuries (2022): https://assets.hse.ie/media/documents/ncr/Policy_on_the_Management_of_Sharps_and_Prevention_of_Sharp_Injuries_2022.pdf • Alcohol hand sanitizer • Face masks if required • Access to telephone • Resuscitation equipment and drugs in accordance with the NIAC (2023) <i>Anaphylaxis: Immediate management in the Community</i> available at: https://rcpi.access.preservica.com/uncategorized/IO_a36f9e4b-4c80-432d-8264-546089359925/ • Access to medical support • Safe storage areas for medicines and equipment • Current medicine protocol for Priorix (MMR) vaccine
Audit process to identify appropriate use of the protocol or unexpected outcomes	<p>All documentation will be held for review and audit purposes as per local policy.</p>

4.0 Information for child/student/parent/legal guardian	
Advice to be given to the child/student/parent/ Legal guardian before treatment	<p>HSE 4 in 1 and MMR vaccine Information for parents of children in Junior infant's booklet must have been supplied with the consent form to each student/parent/legal guardian prior to administration of the vaccine.</p> <p>Obtain informed consent and a signed consent form.</p>
Advice to be given to the child/student/parent/ legal guardian after treatment	<p>After Treatment</p> <p>An Information Tear Pad, stating date and time of vaccination must be given to all children/students for parental/legal guardian's attention. The Tear Pad includes advice about contacting relevant medical personnel in the event of adverse reaction occurring following administration of the vaccination.</p> <p>The child/student must be advised to remain seated in the post vaccination observation area for 15 minutes to allow monitoring of any immediate reaction including possible anaphylactic reaction and must be advised to report any side effects to the registered nurse or registered midwife.</p> <p>Note: Adverse reactions are considerably less common (less than 1%) after the 2nd dose of MMR vaccine.</p>
Details of any necessary follow-up, action and referral arrangements	<p>In the event of an adverse reaction the nurse/midwife must ensure that all procedures are adhered to as outlined in Section 3.</p>

5.0 Staff authorised to use this medicine protocol

Professional qualifications, training and competence required prior to using this medicine protocol.

Registered nurse or registered midwife must have completed all of the following:

1. Be a Registered Nurse or Registered Midwife, on the active register maintained by the NMBI
2. Education programme for nurses and midwives on *Schools Immunisation Programme* and any updates for nurses and midwives accessible on www.HSELand.ie
3. An approved *Basic Life Support for Health Care Providers Course* within the last two years (i.e. Irish Heart Foundation (IHF))
4. Initial *National Anaphylaxis Education Programme for Health Care Professionals* accessible on www.HSELand.ie followed by a two hour classroom based skills workshop. Recertification is required every two years by completing the on-line *National Anaphylaxis Education Programme for Health Care Professionals* accessible on www.HSELand.ie
5. Immunisation Foundation Programme, available on www.HSELand.ie

Note: The Immunisation Foundation Programme will be replaced with Primary Childhood Immunisation Programme (PCIP) accessible on www.HSELand.ie

6. *Critically examining the evidence and practice of holding children for clinical procedure* (masterclass recording 6th December 2022) available at; www.hseland.ie.
7. *The registered nurse/midwife must complete the relevant Competency Self-Assessment Form* available at; www.immunisation.ie

References

GlaxoSmithKline, Ireland Limited Priorix (MMR) Vaccine *Summary of Product Characteristics and Patient Information Leaflet* available at: www.hpra.ie

Health Products Regulatory Authority available at: www.hpra.ie

HSE Policy on the Management of Sharps and Prevention of Sharp Injuries (2022).

<https://healthservice.hse.ie/filelibrary/staff/policy-on-the-management-of-sharps-and-prevention-of-sharp-injuries.pdf>

National Immunisation Advisory Committee (2023) *Anaphylaxis: Treatment in the Community* available at:

https://rcpi.access.preservica.com/uncategorized/IO_a36f9e4b-4c80-432d-8264-546089359925/

National Immunisation Advisory Committee *Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland*. Dublin: Royal College of

Physicians of Ireland National Immunisation Advisory Committee available at:

<https://www.rcpi.ie/Healthcare-Leadership/NIAC/Immunisation-Guidelines-for-Ireland>

HSE National Consent Policy (2022)

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/national-office-human-rights-equality-policy/consent/>

National Immunisation Office (2024/2025) *Supporting Information for Staff: Schools Immunisation Programme*, available at:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/schoolproghcp/supportingdoc.pdf>

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (2021) *Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Registered Nurses and Registered Midwives*. Dublin: Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland available at:

<https://www.nmbi.ie/Standards-Guidance/Code>

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (2020) *Guidance for Registered Nurses and Registered Midwives on Medication Administration*. Dublin: Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland available at:

<https://www.nmbi.ie/NMBI/media/NMBI/NMBI-Medication-Administration-2020>

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (2022) *Practice Standards for Midwives*. Dublin: Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland available at:

<https://www.nmbi.ie/Standards-Guidance/Midwives-Standards>.

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (2015) *Scope of Nursing and Midwifery Practice Framework*. Dublin: Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland available at:

<https://www.nmbi.ie/Standards-Guidance/Scope-of-Practice/Nursing-Practice-Scope-Definition>

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (2015) *Recording Clinical Practice. Guidance to Nurses and Midwives*. Dublin: Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland available at:

<https://www.nmbi.ie/Standards-Guidance/More-Standards-Guidance/Recording-Clinical-Practice>












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Final Audit Report

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