

To Each General Practitioner

13th January 2012

IMPORTANT NEWS

RE: Updated recommendations from the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC)

Dear Doctor,

Please find updated recommendations from NIAC regarding the following issues.

- Protopic, other topical immunomodulators and vaccines
- Length of influenza season
- Rotavirus vaccine and interval before or after BCG
- Rotavirus vaccine and interval before or after Mantoux
- BCG vaccination and Palivizumab (a RSV-specific monoclonal antibody)
- BCG vaccination and phototherapy
- Live vaccines and Mantoux

The new text will be added to the relevant Chapters in the Immunisation Guidelines when the next revisions are done in 2012.

NIAC has recommended that the seasonal influenza campaign continues until the end of April 2012 so please encourage all pregnant women, especially those who have recently become pregnant to avail of seasonal influenza vaccine during this time.

Yours sincerely



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**Recommendations from National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC)
January 2012**

	Issue	Current text in National Immunisation Guidelines	New text to be added when next revisions are done
Chapter 2 General Immunisation Procedures	Protopic, other topical immunomodulators and vaccines	No text (The HSE Guidelines for school vaccinations state <i>“Use of Protopic: It is advised that protopic should be discontinued four weeks before the administration of a live vaccine and two weeks before the administration of an inactivated vaccine. Protopic should not be restarted until three weeks after vaccination”</i>)	<i>Use of Protopic and other topical immunomodulators :</i> <i>It is advised that these preparations should be discontinued four weeks before the administration of live or inactivated vaccines. They should not be restarted until four weeks after vaccination.</i>
Chapter 7 Influenza	Length of influenza season	No text	Influenza vaccine is recommended for all those in the at risk groups until the end of April
Chapter 13A Rotavirus	Interval before or after BCG	Simultaneous Administration with other vaccines Rotavirus vaccine can be administered together with the following vaccines: DTaP, Hib, IPV, Hepatitis B, Men C, PCV and BCG. It may be administered at any time before, along with, or after administration of any blood product, including antibody-containing products.	<i>Simultaneous Administration with other vaccines Rotavirus vaccine can be administered at any time before, along with, or after administration of the following vaccines: DTaP, Hib, IPV, Hepatitis B, Men C, PCV and BCG or of any blood product, including antibody-containing products.</i>
	Interval before or after Mantoux	No text	<i>Tuberculin skin testing Rotavirus vaccine can be administered on the same day as a tuberculin skin test or at any interval before or after</i>
Chapter 16 Tuberculosis	BCG vaccination and Palivizumab (a RSV-specific monoclonal antibody)	No text	<i>Palivizumab, a respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) specific monoclonal antibody, is not known or expected to affect the BCG vaccine, and can be used in infants who have had or will receive BCG</i>
	BCG vaccination and phototherapy	No text	<i>Phototherapy is not a contraindication to BCG vaccination</i>
	Live vaccines and Mantoux	No text	<i>MMR vaccine may temporarily decrease the response to the Mantoux test, potentially causing a false-negative response. It is prudent to wait of at least 4 weeks before giving a routine Mantoux test to those who have received any injected live viral vaccine (MMR, varicella etc) except rotavirus vaccines which are given orally</i>