

# Frequently Asked Questions – the New Immunisation Schedule

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[www.immunisation.ie](http://www.immunisation.ie)

# Frequently Asked Questions

- All vaccines
- The Men B vaccine
- The Rotavirus vaccine
- The Hib/Men C vaccine
- The schedule



# Frequently Asked Questions – the changes

- Introduction of the MenB vaccine
- Introduction of the Rotavirus oral vaccine
- Introduction of the combination Hib/MenC vaccine
- Changed timing of the MenC vaccine
- Changed timing of the PCV vaccine



# The New PCI Schedule

	Current Schedule		Babies born on or after 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2016	
Age (months)	Vaccine	No of injections	Vaccine	No of injections
2	6in1 + PCV	2	6in1 + PCV + MenB + Rotavirus	3 + oral vaccine
4	6in1 + MenC	2	6in1 + MenB + Rotavirus	2 + oral vaccine
6	6in1 + PCV	2	6in1 + PCV + MenC	3
12	MMR + PCV	2	MMR + MenB	2
13	MenC + Hib	2	Hib/MenC + PCV	2



# The Schedule

- Aware that significant change to the PCI schedule
- For approximately 13 months there will be two schedules running in tandem.
- Requires very careful thought –  
Was the baby born on or after 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016?

**This alone determines which schedule they are on**



# FAQ – All vaccines

What if a baby was born

- prematurely at <37 weeks?
  - all babies should be offered immunisation at their chronological age
- very prematurely at <28 weeks?
  - Babies born very prematurely still require immunisation at their chronological age.  
If they have been discharged for vaccinations in the community, no special monitoring is required



# FAQ – All vaccines

- What if a child is acutely unwell at the time of vaccination?
  - vaccination should be deferred until they are well

The only babies who should not receive a vaccine are those for whom the vaccine is contraindicated



# MenB vaccine

MenB vaccine is a multicomponent recombinant vaccine.

It is NOT a live vaccine.

It should be given at 2, 4 and 12 months.





# FAQ – MenB vaccine

- **Why are we not using a 3+1 schedule as per SPC?**
  - Evidence that ‘2+1’ schedule provides appropriate protection.
  - This schedule endorsed by the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) and used in UK.



# FAQ – MenB vaccine

- **What is the earliest time for MenB vaccine?**
  - 6 weeks
  
- **What is the minimum interval between dose 1 & 2?**
  - 1 month



# FAQ – MenB vaccine

- **Why is paracetamol recommended at 2 & 4 months?**

- MenB vaccine in combination with other PCI vaccines can cause a high fever in babies
- Studies shown NO interference with immunogenicity of MenB and PCI vaccines with administration of paracetamol

NIAC recommends 3 doses of paracetamol after 2 and 4 month MenB vaccines

No paracetamol at MenB vaccine at 12 months



# FAQ – MenB vaccine

- **What if a baby still has a fever after 3 doses of paracetamol?**
  - If the baby is otherwise well an additional dose may be given after 4-6 hours  
(total of 4 doses in 24 hours)\*
  - Medical advice should be sought if the baby is unwell or the fever occurs at other times

\* Differs from UK advice



# FAQ – MenB vaccine

- **What if a baby is under 2 months of age?**  
(The SPC for paracetamol states it should only be given to those of 2 months of age.)
  - must be at least 6 weeks old to have MenB vaccine
  - Paracetamol can safely be given to a ‘well baby’ from 6 weeks, using a dose correct for their weight.
  - Dosing referred to is for babies at least 4kg (8lb 13oz)



# FAQ – MenB vaccine

- **What if a baby weighs less than 4kg (8lb 13oz)?**
  - Babies under this weight require a paracetamol dose calculated for their weight @ 15mg per kg

e.g. Baby weighs 3kg =  $15 \times 3 = 45\text{mg}$ .

Infant paracetamol strength is 120mg/5ml

so  $45\text{mg} = \frac{45}{120} \times 5 = 1.9 \text{ mls}$

- Vaccinator will need to advise re dose in these rare circumstances



# FAQ – MenB vaccine

- **What if a baby has already had a confirmed MenB infection?**
  - Vaccine is still recommended to prevent against further episodes of infection
- **What if a baby has an immunodeficiency?**
  - All babies with an immunodeficiency should receive MenB vaccine



# FAQs – Rotavirus vaccine

Rotavirus vaccine is a live attenuated oral vaccine to be given at 2 and 4 months old.

NO rotavirus vaccine should be given on or after 8 months and 0 days of age.

- Differs from UK advice
- Aligned to US CDC guidance





# FAQs – Rotavirus vaccine

- **What is the earliest a baby can have rotavirus vaccine?**
  - 6 weeks
- **What is the minimum interval between dose 1 & dose 2?**
  - 4 weeks
- **What is the latest a baby can have the 2 dose schedule?**
  - 7 months with second dose 4 weeks later
  - i.e. 2 doses before 8 months 0 days
- **What if a baby presents between 7 & 8 months of age?**
  - They can receive 1 dose of the vaccine



# FAQs – Rotavirus vaccine

- **What if a baby was given a dose of vaccine on or after 8 months and 0 days?**
  - No specific clinical monitoring required
  - Parents should be clear regarding symptoms of intussusception and the need to seek medical help
- **What if a baby received another live vaccine recently?**
  - Rotavirus vaccine can be given any time before or after another live vaccine



# FAQs – Rotavirus vaccine

- **What if a baby spits out (regurgitates) the vaccine?**
  - Clinical judgement as to how much spat out.
  - If most of vaccine, a single replacement dose can be given at the same vaccination visit.
- **What if a baby has a feeding tube in place?**
  - The vaccine should be given orally as normal, unless absolute CI for a baby with nasogastric / gastrostomy feeding tube.



# FAQs – Rotavirus vaccine

- **What if a baby has already had a confirmed rotavirus vaccine infection?**
  - they are still recommended the vaccine. This helps better prevent against further episodes of infection.
- **What if a baby has an immunodeficiency other than SCID?**
  - careful appraisal of risks and benefits.
  - HIV positive children, or those of unknown HIV status **SHOULD** receive the rotavirus vaccine



# FAQs – Rotavirus vaccine

- **What if a household member is immunosuppressed?**
  - Vaccination will protect immunocompromised household members.
  - Vaccine virus transmission can occur through nappies for at least 14 days.
  - Strict hygiene should be maintained for nappy changes.
- **What if the baby's parent or principal carers are pregnant**
  - as above



# FAQ – Hib/MenC vaccine

Hib/MenC vaccine is a conjugate vaccine

It is NOT a live vaccine.

It should be given at 13 months.



# FAQ – Hib/MenC vaccine

- **Who should receive the Hib/MenC vaccine?**
  - All babies born on or after 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016 should receive the vaccine at the 13 month visit.
- **Who should not receive the Hib/MenC vaccine?**
  - Any baby with confirmed anaphylactic reaction to the Hib/MenC vaccine, tetanus toxoid or the constituents to the vaccine.

FAQs as per all vaccines



# FAQ – The schedule

- **Why have reintroduced a 3<sup>rd</sup> vaccine to the 6 month visit?**
  - to facilitate the addition of MenB vaccine
  - maintain existing vaccines given at appropriate time
- **What if someone presents late/early for their vaccinations?**
  - Decide whether they were born on or after 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016 and follow the appropriate schedule





# FAQ – The schedule

- **What if I give a new vaccine in error to a baby on the old schedule?**
  - Continue as per the old schedule
- **If a vaccine within the PCI schedule is given in error we recommend in all cases**
  - Explain error to parents
  - Reflect on how occurred and how could be prevented
  - Reassure parent no harm expected of error



# Frequently Asked Questions

- What supports available?

## Information materials for parents

- Maternity leaflet
- 'Your child's immunisation - A guide for parents'
- New tear pad at 6 weeks
- Tear pad with after vaccine care
- Information on website

## Information materials for health care professionals

- Frequently Asked Questions document
- Wheel for rotavirus vaccine doses and ages
- Poster for rotavirus vaccine doses and ages and paracetamol dosage
- Guidelines for Vaccinations in General Practice
- Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland (NIAC)



[www.immunisation.ie](http://www.immunisation.ie)

# Frequently Asked Questions

Thank you



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# FAQ – The schedule

- **What if I give a MenC instead of Men B at the 2 or 4 month visit in error?**
  - Give MenB vaccine as scheduled
  - No requirement for MenC to be given at the 6 month visit
- **What if I give the Hib/MenC in error at the 4 or 6 month visit?**
  - They will not need the separate MenC vaccine
  - They will still require the 6in1 to be given (even though Hib is part of 6in1)
- **What if I give MenC in error at 12 month visit?**
  - Need Hib only at 13 months NOT Hib/MenC vaccine



# FAQ – The schedule

- **What if I give PCV in error at 12 month visit?**
  - Need only Hib/MenC at 13 month visit
- **What if I give single MenC in error at 13 month visit?**
  - require single Hib and PCV vaccines (3 in total)
- **What if I give a single Hib in error at 13 month visit?**
  - require single MenC and PCV vaccines (3 in total)

