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 1st 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 1st 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of birth</th>
<th>Babies born up to 30\textsuperscript{th} June 2015</th>
<th>Babies born on or after 1\textsuperscript{st} July 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age</strong></td>
<td><strong>Immunisations</strong></td>
<td><strong>Comment</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 months</td>
<td>6 in 1 + PCV</td>
<td>2 injections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 months</td>
<td>6 in 1 + Men C</td>
<td>2 injections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>6 in 1 + PCV + Men C</td>
<td>3 injections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>MMR + PCV</td>
<td>2 injections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 months</td>
<td>Men C + Hib</td>
<td>2 injections</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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