



Stiúrthóir um Náisiúnta Chosaint Sláinte Poiblí
FSS Lárionad Faire um Chosaint Sláinte
25 - 27 Sráid Ghairdinéir,
Baile Átha Cliath,
D01 A4A3,
Éire

Director of National Health Protection, Public Health
HSE Health Protection Surveillance Centre
25-27 Middle Gardiner Street
Dublin 1
D01 A4A3
Ireland

05/11/2025

Subject: Access to Primary Immunisations

To all GP's with PCI contract

Re: Importance of provision of Primary Childhood Immunisations at the recommended time, regardless of whether baby has a PPSN allocated

Dear Colleagues,

We are writing to you to highlight the importance of administering vaccines according to the Primary Childhood Immunisation (PCI) schedule to offer protection to children when they are most vulnerable to infections and their complications. Issues such as lack of an allocated PPS number should not be a barrier to this important clinical and public health intervention.

In some cases, **there may be a delay in the child's birth being registered**, potentially leading to delays in them receiving a PPSN. However, **it is vitally important that all babies are given their first vaccines at two months of age, regardless of whether they have yet received a PPSN.**

The **HSE Primary Care Contractors Office** is providing advice to practices about the process for holding on to vaccine claims in the event that a PPSN is delayed, so that the child can be protected on time. We would urge all practices to follow this guidance to ensure that babies do not come to harm from vaccine preventable diseases due to an administrative issue.

Primary Childhood Immunisations are recommended for all children at 2, 4, 6, 12 and 13 months of age, because babies are very vulnerable to infections and this gives them the best protection at the earliest possible opportunity.

The National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) strongly advise that children are given their vaccines on time every time, and that any child who is **one month** or more behind on their schedule be put on a catch-up schedule to ensure they are protected, by using the minimum intervals between doses, until the child has caught up with the schedule. [Chapter 2, General Immunisation Procedures](#). The NIO can provide individualised advice on catch-up schedules via immunisation@hse.ie if required.

Practices should ensure they have sufficient appointments available for timely immunisation of all registered patients and reminders are sent if a child is not immunised on time. If parents or guardians cancel PCI appointments, for example the child is unwell, we would recommend these are re-booked at the time of cancelation or as soon as possible afterwards.

We thank you for your continued commitment to providing lifesaving vaccines to your population.

Yours sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Éamonn O'Moore'.

**Dr Éamonn O'Moore,
Director of Health Protection,
HSE Public Health: National Health Protection Office,
IMC No 015507**

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Lucy Jessop'.

**Dr. Lucy Jessop
Consultant in Public Health Medicine
National Immunisation Office MRCN 424447**