



## Changes to the National Immunisation Program- 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018

Dear WA Immunisation Provider,

From 1 July 2018, the Commonwealth government is introducing changes to the National Immunisation Program (NIP). These changes involve pneumococcal, meningococcal and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b vaccines in the childhood schedule. In addition, the maternal pertussis vaccine will be added to the NIP.

A synopsis of the changes is as follows:

1. The 3<sup>rd</sup> dose of pneumococcal vaccine (**Prevenar13**<sup>®</sup>) currently given at 6 months will be moved to 12 months of age for most children. Aboriginal children and children at increased risk of invasive pneumococcal disease will continue to get a 3<sup>rd</sup> pneumococcal vaccine dose at 6 months and will get an additional 4<sup>th</sup> dose at 12 months.
2. Meningococcal ACWY vaccine (**Nimenrix**<sup>®</sup>) will replace the dose of Meningococcal C/ Hib vaccine (**Menitorix**<sup>®</sup>) currently given at 12 months.
3. **Menitorix**<sup>®</sup> (Meningococcal C and Hib vaccine) will be given at 18 months in WA until further notice. Eventually, **Menitorix**<sup>®</sup> will be replaced by **Act-HIB**<sup>®</sup> at 18 months.
4. In addition, maternal pertussis (dTpa) vaccination for pregnant women has been listed on the NIP to guarantee its ongoing access and availability. This change has no impact on practice in WA as there has been a state funded program in place since 2015.

### Further detail:

**Pneumococcal vaccine:** The routine infant pneumococcal vaccination dosing schedule will be 2, 4 and 12 months of age, instead of the current 2, 4 and 6 months. Aboriginal children and children at increased risk of invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) will continue to get a 3<sup>rd</sup> pneumococcal vaccine dose at 6 months and will get an additional 4<sup>th</sup> dose at 12 months. Please see the Australian Immunisation Handbook List 4.13.1: for conditions associated with an increased risk of invasive pneumococcal disease.

### **Meningococcal and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) vaccines:**

Nimenrix<sup>®</sup> Meningococcal ACWY vaccine will replace the dose of combined Meningococcal C and Hib vaccine (Menitorix<sup>®</sup>) currently given at 12 months. Children will then need a dose of Hib-containing vaccine at 18 months of age. WA will use Menitorix<sup>®</sup> for 18 month dose of Hib-containing vaccine until current vaccine stocks are exhausted. Menitorix<sup>®</sup> provides protection against meningococcal C and Hib disease. It is safe for children to receive a dose of meningococcal C containing vaccine at 18 months even if they have received Nimenrix<sup>®</sup> at 12 months.

**\*Please note:** All 2 month scheduled vaccines can be administered from 6 weeks of age.

The below table illustrates the **changes to the [WA schedule](#)** from 1 July 2018.

Age	Current schedule	Schedule from 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2018
6 months	All children- Infanrix Hexa and Prevenar 13 ATSI/medically at risk- no additional vaccines	Most children: <b>Infanrix Hexa only – no Prevenar13</b> ATSI and/ or medically at risk- <b>Prevenar 13 + Infanrix Hexa</b>
12 months	All children- MMR and Menitorix	All children-MMR, <b>Nimenrix and Prevenar 13</b>
18 months	All children: MMRV, DTPa	All children: MMRV, DTPa and <b>Menitorix</b> <b>(Once Menitorix stocks are exhausted, monovalent Act-HIB will be used)</b>

For additional information, please refer to the National Immunisation Program website.  
 Thank you.

Professor Paul Effler, MD, MPH FAFPHM  
**Medical Advisor, COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL DIRECTORATE**