

10 January 2008

Dear Immunisation Provider

Important information on the National Immunisation Schedule – January to March 2008

This letter is to update you on changes to the National Immunisation Schedule from January to March 2008. This letter contains information about:

1. dTap (Boostrix) vaccine from January 2008
2. early introduction of DTaP-IPV-HepB/Hib (Infanrix-Hexa) vaccine

1. dTap (Boostrix) vaccine for 11 year old children (school Year 7) from January 2008

From January 2008, adult diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis (dTap, Boostrix) vaccine replaces dTap-IPV (Boostrix-IPV) on the National Immunisation Schedule. From 2008, 11 year old children have already received the recommended 4 doses of polio vaccine.

However supplies of Boostrix vaccine will not be received in New Zealand until mid January 2008 so primary care providers are requested to continue to use Boostrix-IPV. All Year 7 school programme vaccine orders will be filled with Boostrix vaccine when it arrives in New Zealand. Boostrix vaccine is given as part of a school-based vaccination programme in the North Island and Nelson-Marlborough DHBs, and by primary care in the remainder of the South Island.

When will dTap (Boostrix) vaccine be available?

ProPharma vaccine order forms will be updated for the Boostrix vaccine. Boostrix vaccine can be ordered from ProPharma from mid January 2008.

What do I do with stocks of dTap-IPV (Boostrix-IPV) vaccine?

dTap-IPV vaccine can continue to be given by primary care providers and the immunisation benefit claimed until your stocks are used up. There are no safety concerns if a child receives 5 doses of polio vaccine.

Is dTap (Boostrix) vaccine recorded on the NIR?

No. There is no requirement to record dTap immunisations on the NIR. Those children receiving dTap as part of school based programmes will be recorded on the School Based Vaccination System (which does not message to the NIR).

How is dTap (Boostrix) vaccine administered?

By deep intramuscular injection into the deltoid muscle. Prescribing information for the dTap vaccine is available in the Medicine Data Sheet section of the Medsafe website:

www.medsafe.govt.nz

What are the dTap (Boostrix) vaccine box and needle dimensions?

Pack	Description	Box Dimensions (Length x Width x Height)	Needles (Gauge and Length)
Single-pack box	1 x 1-dose pre-filled syringes	130 x 25 x 50 mm	1 X Terumo Luer 25G X 5/8" 0.5mm x 16mm 1 X Terumo Luer 23G X 1" 0.6mm x 25mm
10-pack box	10 x 1-dose pre-filled syringes	120 x 90 x 120 mm	10 X Terumo Luer 25G X 5/8" 0.5mm x 16mm 10 X Terumo Luer 23G X 1" 0.6mm x 25mm

- Note - Needles are not attached to the pre-filled syringes.

What information is available about the dTap (Boostrix) immunisation?

Health education immunisation resources have been updated and will be available from mid to late January 2008. These resources can be ordered from your local authorised provider or from the Health education website: www.healthed.govt.nz

2. Early introduction of DTaP-IPV-HepB/Hib (Infanrix-hexa) vaccine

Due to Hib-HepB (Comvax) vaccine manufacturing problems NZ is not able to secure further supplies of Comvax vaccine.

Based on usual demand current stocks of Comvax vaccine will run out mid March 2008, allowing for the early introduction of DTaP-IPV-HepB/Hib (Infanrix-Hexa) vaccine. Note that Infanrix-Hexa replaces the DTaP-IPV (Infanrix-IPV) and Comvax vaccines at 6 weeks and 3 months of age. The Ministry recommends Infanrix-Hexa also be given to children at 5 months of age, replacing DTaP-IPV and Hep B (HBvaxPRO).

More information will follow in late February 2008 about the early introduction of the Infanrix-Hexa vaccine, including:

- availability of and ordering Infanrix-Hexa vaccine
- Infanrix-Hexa reconstitution and administration
- entering Infanrix-Hexa onto the NIR
- claiming the immunisation benefit.

Prescribing information for the Infanrix-Hexa vaccine is available in the Medicine Data Sheet section of the Medsafe website: www.medsafe.govt.nz

To ensure a smooth transition to Infanrix-Hexa vaccine, please continue to order your usual quantities for Hib-HepB, DTaP-IPV, and Hep B vaccines. Please do not stockpile Hib-HepB (Comvax) vaccine for your practice.

If you require further information, please contact Dr Alison Roberts (Senior Advisor, Public Health Medicine Specialist) ph: 04 816 4384 or alison_roberts@moh.govt.nz or Vikki Cheer (Analyst, National Immunisation Programme) ph: 04 816 4434 or vikki_cheer@moh.govt.nz or see the Ministry of Health website: www.moh.govt.nz/immunisation

Please ensure your immunisation provider colleagues see this letter.

Yours sincerely

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