

Febrile Convulsions in Children and the Seasonal Influenza Vaccination

There has been recent media coverage about reactions in young children to influenza vaccines. The Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring (CARM) received five incidents of febrile convulsion within 24 hours of influenza vaccination, in New Zealand children under the age of five by late April this year. CARM did not feel that this was an unusual or atypical response rate. The Ministry is maintaining a policy of continuing immunisation for <5 years, but recommends avoiding Fluvax in this age group. Alternative influenza vaccines (Influvax and Vaxigrip) are recommended for use in children <5 years, as per the Ministry of Health Guidelines. Influenza AEFI are reported on a separate CARM Form available on <http://carm.otago.ac.nz/>

Adverse Events Following Immunisation (AEFI)

An AEFI is any adverse event that follows immunisation- the vaccine may one of several causes of these. All unexpected or serious events causing clinical concern should be reported to CARM regardless of whether they are considered to be caused by the vaccination. The Immunisation Handbook (pg 107) provides guidance about the types of events which might be reported and includes reporting of incorrect vaccine delivery. CARM assesses events to establish whether they are vaccine linked. Reporting is an integral part in detecting changes in rates of known or previously undocumented AEFI. CARM reporting forms are available on <http://carm.otago.ac.nz/>



Individuals, parents & caregivers should be encouraged to notify vaccinators of any AEFI which they consider may have been caused by the vaccination. Alternatively they can notify CARM themselves or contact the Immunisation Facilitator or IMAC to notify on their behalf.

Immunisation Schedule Catch Ups

Developing a catch up schedule for patients is not always easy. As a regular ImmPHO feature we are including a catch up scenario for you and your colleges to challenge each other. The 2008 National Immunisation Schedule Health Provider Booklet and the IMAC Pneumococcal Catch Up Schedule (Sept 2009) provide easy to reference information to help you plan a catch up. (Resources and catch up support are available from the Immunisation Facilitator).

Catch Up Challenge (No. 1):

8 year old Marty has had the following Immunisations:

- 6w – DTPH, OPV, Hep B
- 3m – DTPH, OPV, Hep B
- 5m – DTPH, OPV, Hep B



He has presented to you today for immunisation, what would you give him?

Pertussis

On time Pertussis immunisations remains a priority, especially for babies. Between 26th December 2009 and 14th May 2010, there have been 36 notifications of Pertussis in infants under 1y of age in NZ, of whom 26 were hospitalised. Pertussis is a notifiable disease and suspected cases should be notified to the Medical Officer of Health, or contact Public Health at (03) 520 9914. A booster of dTaP, if given to the immunisation close to contacts of newborn infants such as to parents, grandparents and health care workers, is expected to reduce exposure of Pertussis to newborn infants and infants not yet adequately protected through immunisation.

Measles

The Ministry of Health now recommends that MMR vaccination is given according to the 2008 schedule i.e. 15m and 4y. The Medical Officer of Health reports that there was an encouraging uptake of the MMR vaccine during the measles outbreak last year which is a direct result of practices efforts in recalling children. There has been a recent measles outbreak in Northland which originated from an overseas source and spread rapidly in a community with low immunisation rates. This supports the fact that the risk of infectious diseases is ever present.

Who's Who in Imms?... Outreach Immunisation Service

OIS in Marlborough is provided by Sharon Osborne, Maataa Waka who is available Monday to Thursday 9.00am-3.00pm who can be contacted on 577 9256. This service is provided to general practice and other agencies working with children and families. The OIS goal is to:

1. Promote the childhood schedule vaccinations 10 weeks to 6 years
2. Support Whanau / Families to access childhood vaccinations
3. Provide home / community vaccinations when required
4. Link family / Whanau back into primary care services



A referral form of instructions on the criteria and process for referral to OIS is available in each practice. Referrals are accepted for any child from 10w up and including 6y of age. OIS accepts referrals for children who are 6 years and under meeting any one these criteria:

- not responding to vaccination recalls
- not turning up for appointments
- parents ambivalent with lots of questions
- multiple socio-economic factors or high deprivation.
- not enrolled / casual children
- larger families with multiple children overdue
- Maori or Pacific
- transport issues

True Contraindications to Immunisation

Achieving good disease control requires high coverage of immunisations on time. Delays in immunisation could impact on disease control and ultimately increase the risk to the child. According to research 30% of children had a missed opportunity to vaccinate, with the most common reason being a visit for URTI. Genuine contraindications were present in less than 5% of cases.

Minor infections such as diarrhoea or mild URTI, without significant fever or system upset are not contraindications to immunisation. Vaccination should only be postponed if the child has:

- a moderate or severe illness with a fever over 38°C
- anaphylaxis / allergy to any vaccine component
- a prior anaphylaxis to the vaccine or component of the vaccine
- specific vaccine contraindication as per the vaccine data sheet or Immunisation Handbook (pg. 77)



Children with minor illness may be vaccinated safely and only postponed if there is a significant fever over 38°C.

Human Papilloma Virus

2010 is the last year girls can receive HPV vaccine in school year 9 and above. From 2011 only girls in school year 8 will be offered the school-based HPV programme. Gardasil™ will remain free through primary care for young women born on or after 1 January 1990 until they are 20 years of age.

One common misconception is that protection from Gardasil™ lasts only five years. Gardasil™ has been shown to provide stable immune memory for at least five years with no sign of weakening. International clinical studies continue to monitor the duration of protection. Data on the HPV16 component of Gardasil™ now supports stable immune memory at 8.5 years post-vaccination

Vaccinator Update Course

Vaccinator Update Course – 1st September 2010, Phoenix Motor Inn, Blenheim. 5.00pm – 9.00pm

This 4 hour update is a 2 yearly requirement for trained vaccinators. Cost is \$45.00 per person

Please contact Christine Holdaway for Registration forms. Post form, with payment by cheque only (payable to Auckland UniServices Ltd) to: Education Training Administrator, IMAC, PO Box 1032, New Plymouth 4340

Online Immunisation Updates are available for vaccinators and GPs at a cost of \$45.00 (Advisable to use broadband for the online course. To register go to: www.icomet.org.nz)

Immunisation Information / Midwives Course

1 day course - **2nd Sept 2010**, Village Hall, Monaco Resort, 6 Point Road, Nelson. 8.30am – 4.30pm (morning tea and lunch provided). *Allocation of 10 CME points for attendance as well as completion of the course assessment.*