

Best practice at the practice:

Research by The Ministry of Health and IMAC has found common strategies within general practices achieving high immunisation rates and on time immunisation. The following is recommended to help promote, deliver and improve immunisation of under two year olds.

Early registration

- Send out a 'Welcome to practice' letter or card to parents with information encouraging enrolment and six week immunisations on notification of the birth.

Early contact helps develop timely relationships and can reduce the number of delayed first immunisation.

Knowledgeable, confident Doctors, Nurses and Receptionists

- Have an Immunisation champion/s within the practice
- Ensure all doctors, nurses and receptionists believe and promote immunisation.
- Ensure the practice has patient centred factual, evidence based information to communicate confidently with parents / caregivers.
- Identify difficult to access children so others in practice can engage in discussion about immunisation based on their scope of practice.

Opportunistic Vaccinating

- Vaccinating opportunistically has a key role to play in improving immunisation rates. All nurses and doctors offer vaccination to eligible children.
- Immunisation is seen as a priority within the practice setting.

Precall or Prebooking next appointment

- Pre call contact has a significant effect in reducing the delay in delivery of immunisations
Pre-call letters are sent out two weeks before immunisations are due.
- Book the next vaccination appointment during the immunisation consult.

Weekly recalls

- Three attempted recalls either by phone call, txt, letter and preferably a combination of all three. Weekly recalls identify children of parents who are not responding and can be followed up by OIS before they become too overdue.

Prompt referral

- Refer the child to OIS if no response to 3 recall attempts. Don't hold onto these children, you can always contact OIS to let them know they have been vaccinated at the practice.

Follow-up

- Follow-up DNAs straight away and rebook that day or as soon as possible.
- Send reminders for appointments using txt, or phone calls the day before appointment.

Alerts

- Place tasks, alerts or notes in Medtech to remind other health professionals that the child is overdue for immunisations. Encourage other health professionals to discuss immunisation.

Team effort

- Providing opportunity for all children to be immunised on time is a team effort with all practice staff involved.

ODDS and ENDS:

- In the event of a vaccine incident please contact the Immunisation Facilitator (520 6212 or 021 315 650) for advice and support as soon as possible after the incident
- If practices nurses feel they are not vaccinating enough children to maintain their competency and Authorised Independent Vaccinator status please contact the Immunisation Facilitator who will assist you to obtain further clinical work.
- The Ministry of Health recommends; Immunisation of all healthcare workers for pertussis in direct contact with infants and young children (pg142, 2011 Immunisation Handbook.)
Consider discussing with your employer the opportunity of vaccination if you have not received a pertussis containing vaccine or had a laboratory confirmed whooping cough infection in in the last ten years. (Dr Jill Sherwood MOoH)

NIR:

If you are having trouble entering immunisations that were given overseas please ring Belinda (5461559) or Maxine (5461072) at the NIR with relevant details. They will enter the vaccines on the NIR for you. All you then need to do is a NIR status query to update the child's immunisation records on Medtech.

National Cold Chain:

The National Cold Chain Audit was re-launched on Monday 31st October, 2011.

The audit now includes a new digital monitor and updates to the Temperature Monitor Record Card. Practices and clinics should expect these to arrive with scheduled vaccine orders within 4 to 8 weeks of the re-launch.

If you have any questions about the digital monitors or Cold Chain Audit please contact the Immunisation Facilitator.

Frequently asked questions are also available on the IMAC website www.immune.org.nz.