FAQs

Primary Childhood Immunisation Schedule for babies born on or after July 1st 2015

	PREVIOUS SCHEDULE		CURRENT SCHEDULE	
Date of birth	**Babies born up to 30th June 2015**		**Babies born on or after 1st July 2015**	
Age	**Immunisations**	**Comment**	**Immunisations**	**Comment**
2 months	6 in 1 + PCV	2 injections	6 in 1 + PCV	2 injections
4 months	6 in 1 + Men C	2 injections	6 in 1 + Men C	2 injections
6 months	6 in 1 + PCV + Men C	3 injections	**6 in 1 + PCV**	**2 injections**
12 months	MMR + PCV	2 injections	MMR + PCV	2 injections
13 months	Men C + Hib	2 injections	Men C + Hib	2 injections

6 in 1: Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio, Haemophilus influenzae type b, Hepatitis B vaccine
Hib: Haemophilus influenzae type b vaccine
MenC: Meningococcal C vaccine
MMR :Measles, Mumps, Rubella vaccine
PCV: Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine

What has changed in the new schedule?
The MenC immunisation schedule has changed from three doses at 4, 6 and 13 months to two doses at 4 and 13 months.

This new schedule applies to all children born on or after July 1st 2015 so it applies from January 1st 2016 when these children come for their six months visit.

Why has the primary childhood MenC schedule changed?
The reason the schedule has changed is that we now know that one dose of MenC vaccine in infancy provides sufficient protection against MenC disease up to one year of age.

What MenC schedule applies for child born before 1st July 2015?
Any child born before this date should be given 3 doses of MenC regardless of whether they present late for vaccines after 1st July 2015.

Why should children born before 1st July 2015 be given 2 doses of MenC vaccine under one year of age?
These children are under the old schedule so they will not be recorded as being fully vaccinated unless they have 2 MenC doses before 12 months of age.

I've forgotten to give a child born before 1st July 2015 MenC at 6 months.
MenC vaccine should be given two months after 6 months vaccine so this child will be counted as being fully vaccinated in the quarterly vaccine uptake figures.

I gave child born on or after 1st July 2015 a second dose of MenC vaccine at 6 months.
The parents should be informed but no further action is needed.

Why was a MenC booster introduced for adolescents?
Meningococcal disease may occur at any age but the highest rate of disease occurs in children under 5 years of age. There is a second peak of cases in young people aged 15-19 years.

Because of concerns about waning immunity to Group C meningococcus in the adolescent population an adolescent MenC booster was added to the HSE schools immunisation programme in 2014/2015.

A booster dose of MenC vaccine during adolescence induces very high and sustained levels of antibodies.

This booster is offered to all 1st year students in second level schools and age equivalent in special schools or home schooled (12-13 years).