



July 2022

Toolkit for GP Practices to increase primary childhood vaccine uptake

HSE National Immunisation Office

Tips for Catch-Up Vaccination in General Practice

1 Use the catch-up table in the Immunisation Guidelines Chapter 2

2 Use the column for the age of the child, but remember the table assumes a patient hasn't received any vaccines at all

Table 2.3 Catch-up schedule for unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated aged 4 months to < 4 years

Vaccine	4 months to <12 months	1 to < 2 years	2-4 years
DTaP/IPV/ HepB/Hib ² 6 in 1 ¹	3 doses ≥8 weeks apart	3 doses ≥8 weeks apart ²	3 doses ≥8 weeks apart ^{1,2}
MenB	2 doses ≥8 weeks apart (if aged ≥10 months give 1 dose and a booster at ≥12 months 8 weeks after the first dose)	2 doses ≥8 weeks apart	
PCV	2 doses ≥8 weeks apart	1 dose	
Rotavirus ³	2 doses 8 weeks apart (No dose after 8 months 0 days)		
MenC ⁴	1 dose	1 dose	1 dose
MMR		1 dose	1 dose
NOTE	Continue with routine childhood immunisation schedule from 12 months	Routine school immunisations: DTaP/IPV at least 6 months and preferably 3 years after primary course MMR2 ≥1 month after MMR1	

Table 2.4 Catch-up schedule for unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated aged 4 years and older

Vaccine	4 to <10 years	10 to <18 years	18 years and older
DTaP/IPV/ HepB/Hib ² 6 in 1 ¹	3 doses ≥8 weeks apart ^{1,2}		
MenC ⁴	1 dose	1 dose up to 23 years of age, if Men C containing vaccine not given at age ≥10 years	1 dose up to 23 years of age, if Men C containing vaccine not given at age ≥10 years
MMR	2 doses ≥28 days apart ¹	2 doses ≥28 days apart	2 doses ≥28 days apart ¹
Tdap/IPV		3 doses ≥28 days apart	1 dose ²
Td/IPV			2 doses ≥28 days apart – leave ≥28 day gap after Tdap/IPV vaccine
NOTE	Tdap/IPV as school immunisation at least 6 months and preferably 3 years after primary course and MMR2 ≥1 month after MMR1	Booster of Tdap/IPV 5 years after primary course; Tdap 10 years later	



Scan the QR code to see the NIAC catch-up schedule for children and adults



7 principles for catch-up vaccination

#1. Men C vaccine given before 12 months, provides protection for a child's 1st year of life only

When a child reaches the age of 12 months, they need 1 dose of MenC (given in the Hib/MenC vaccine) only, regardless of whether or not they received Men C vaccine in their 1st year of life.

#2. PCV13 vaccine given before 12 months, gives protection for a child's 1st year of life only

When a child reaches the age of 12 months, they need 1 dose of PCV13 only, regardless of whether or not they have received PCV13 in their 1st year of life.

#3. If the 6 month vaccines are late e.g. given at 9 months, there is no need to delay the 12 month vaccines

#4. If a child needs to catch up with both 12 and 13 month vaccines, they can be given at one visit

#5. Once a child reaches the age of 2, NIAC advises they no longer need PCV13 vaccine or MenB vaccine, even if they have never had these vaccines

The exception is children with at-risk conditions who should be vaccinated.

#6. Once a child reached the age of 10, they no longer need Hib vaccine

#7. A child over the age of 1 year, needs a single dose of MenC up until MenACWY is given in school

For more information: Primary Immunisation Schedule Catch up vaccination presentation from Dr Tom Barrett, Senior Medical Officer, HSE National Immunisation Office: <https://youtu.be/jpmWiSRY4So>

Vaccination schedules in different countries

Where to find details of vaccine schedules in different countries:

- For EU/EEA countries: <https://bit.ly/VaccScheduler>
- For rest of the world: <https://bit.ly/WHOSchedule>

If you are a health professional and have questions about catch-up vaccinations, please email immunisation@hse.ie

Tips for communication with parents who are hesitant about vaccines



#1. Ask open ended questions

"Can I ask you what you're worried about?"

#2. Affirm their strengths (stress the positives)

"It's good that you've been thinking about the vaccines."

#3. Validate their concerns

"It can be worrying when you read about things like that online."

#4. Reflect

"You've read that you shouldn't give so many vaccines in one go, so that worries you and that's why you haven't had your baby vaccinated yet."

#5. Ask and provide information

"Could I share with you some information about the vaccines, and why we give the vaccines together?"

#6. Verify how they feel

"How do you feel now about the vaccines, now we've had a chance to talk about it?"

#7. Describe the action plan

"Ok, you'd like to read some of the information I've given you, and you are going to come back in a week to talk to me about it some more."



Remember to recommend the vaccines
You can share your own experience if you are someone the person can identify with (e.g. getting your baby vaccinated)



Don't enter into a debate
Don't give a long list of data and statistics - it can be counterproductive

Adapted from World Health Organization resources:

Conversations to build trust in vaccination. A training module for health workers: <https://bit.ly/WHOConversationGuide>

If you are a health professional and have questions, please email immunisation@hse.ie

Artwork by Peter Darcy, Information Officer, HSE National Immunisation Office.

Evidence-based interventions to improve childhood vaccine uptake in your General Practice



#1. Adopt a practice-wide team approach to increasing uptake

Involve everyone, from the person who answers the phone, to the clinical lead.

#2. Invite parents for vaccination of babies well in advance so they can plan their visit

#3. Send reminders

They work. Text, write or phone parents to remind them that vaccines are due or overdue

#4. Facilitate appointments for vaccination

Encourage reception staff to facilitate appointments. Flexible appointments for vaccination including evenings and weekends, if possible, are effective and improve attendance

#5. Check children's immunisation status when they are attending the GP for other reasons

Check your I.T. system flags children with outstanding vaccinations

#6. Recommend vaccination if children are overdue vaccines; book appointments if any missing vaccines

#7. Advice from a trusted healthcare professional is known to be the most important way to promote vaccination

Communicate effectively with parents while answering queries about vaccines. An e-learning module "Talking About Immunisation" is available on www.hseland.ie

#8. Keep up-to-date with the current information about vaccines

Please visit www.immunisation.ie

#9. Promote vaccination on your website and in your practice display leaflets and posters

#10. Guide parents where to find reliable information

e.g. <http://bit.ly/PCIPBook>

#12. E-Learning module: Talking About Immunisation

Complete on www.hseland.ie

If you are health professional and have questions, please email immunisation@hse.ie

Artwork by Peter Darcy, Information Officer, HSE National Immunisation Office.

Social media

Follow us on our official [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#) channels for up to date news, videos and more.

Suggested messages

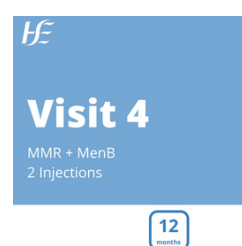
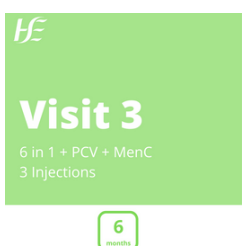
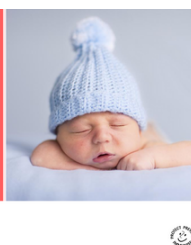
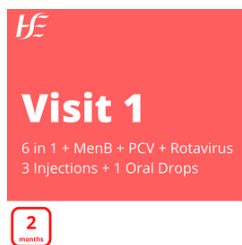
Your baby needs five visits to complete their primary childhood immunisation schedule. Make an appointment with your GP practice today. Find out more at [immunisation.ie](#) #KeepVaccinating

Getting your baby vaccinated is a safe and effective way to protect them from serious diseases. Make an appointment with your GP practice today. Learn more at [immunisation.ie](#) #KeepVaccinating

Getting your baby vaccinated on time is the best way to protect them from serious diseases when they are older. Make an appointment with your GP practice today. Learn more at [immunisation.ie](#) #KeepVaccinating

Don't delay getting your baby vaccinated. The routine vaccines for your baby are free and will help protect them from infectious diseases. So make an appointment with your GP practice today. Learn more: [immunisation.ie](#) #KeepVaccinating

Social media posts



Sample social media posts are available to download from [immunisation.ie](#)



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For more information

Complete our **Talking About Immunisation** e-learning module on HSeLanD at www.hseland.ie

