



## 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 the vaccines are due or overdue.

### **4. Facilitate appointments for vaccinations**

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

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

Check if 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 [hseiland](http://hseiland.com).

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

Please visit [www.immunisation.ie](http://www.immunisation.ie) and subscribe to the NIO Newsletter [here](#). Follow us on our official [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#) channels for up to date news, videos and more.

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

Find resources in the partner pack [here](#)

### **10. Guide parents where to find reliable information**

Give them resources like the [PCIP Booklet](#) and [Infographic](#)

### **11. View e-learning modules for best practices, including "Primary Childhood Immunisation Programme" and "Talking about Immunisation"**

Complete on [hseiland](http://hseiland.com).



## 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."

### Adapted from World Health Organization resources:

Conversations to build trust in vaccination: A training module for health workers, linked [here](#).

If you are a health professional and have questions, please email [immunisation@hse.ie](mailto:immunisation@hse.ie)

### [Tips for Catch-Up Vaccination in General Practice](#)

Note: this is only for children born BEFORE 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024

1. View 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 has not received any vaccines at all



7 Principles for catch-up vaccination for children born before 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024:

**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**

Vaccination schedules in different countries:

- For EU/EEA countries click [here](#)
- For rest of the world click [here](#)

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