# 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 [hseland.](https://www.hseland.ie/dash/Account/Loginwww.hseland.ie)

**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](https://nio-news.com/sign-up/). Follow us on our official [Twitter](https://x.com/HSEImm), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/hseimm/) and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC72OfkOKYqj2RCAIvwYUv4g?cbrd=1) 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](https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/hcppci/pci-partner-pack-2024.pdf)

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

Give them resources like the [PCIP Booklet](https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/pubinfo/pcischedule/immunisation-booklet-final-english-web-2024.pdf) and [Infographic](https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/infomaterials/infographic-english-web-2024.pdf)

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

Complete on[hseland.](https://www.hseland.ie/dash/Account/Loginwww.hseland.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."

**Adapted from World Health Organization resources:**

Conversations to build trust in vaccination: A training module for health workers, linked [here](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fcdn.who.int%2Fmedia%2Fdocs%2Fdefault-source%2Fimmunization%2Fdemand%2Ftrainingmodule-conversationguide-final.pptx%3Fsfvrsn%3D32a16425_2&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK).

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

## Tips for Catch-Up Vaccination in General Practice

Note: this is only for children born BEFORE 1st October 2024

1. View the Catch-Up Table in the [Immunisation Guidelines](https://www.rcpi.ie/Healthcare-Leadership/NIAC/Immunisation-Guidelines-for-Ireland) 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 1st 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**](https://vaccine-schedule.ecdc.europa.eu/)
* **For rest of the world click** [**here**](https://immunizationdata.who.int/global?topic=Vaccination-schedule&location=)