



# The Immune Response

July 2001

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**CSL**

Vaccines

Please copy and distribute to all immunisation providers in your practice or health centre. Thank you.

## Accreditation needed to give free Q fever vax

The Department of Health has introduced a national free Q fever vaccination program.

In order to prevent vaccination leakage and wastage it is introducing an accreditation scheme on which it will base the distribution of the free vaccine. For those GPs who are already giving Q fever vaccinations, they may like to continue to do so by doing a refresher course.

The course lasts two to three hours and is linked with CME

points. This will be the only way GPs are able to obtain accreditation for Q fever and therefore be supplied with the free Q fever vaccine.

The division is currently taking the names of GPs who are interested in being accredited for Q fever vaccine administration and investigation.

Target groups for Q fever are shearers, abattoir workers and people closely associated with abattoirs, ie. contractors. Please ring the division now.

## Pneumococcal vax to be free for high risk children

A free pneumococcal vaccine program for children at high risk will start in the next couple of months.

What vaccine is involved?

*Prevenar 7vPCV* (pneumococcal conjugate vaccine) given at 2, 4 and 6 months..

Who qualifies for the free new vaccine?

Four groups have been identified. These groups have been selected due to their high incidence of pneumococcal infection.

1. All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders under 2 yrs old.

2. Aboriginal children who are older than 2 years and younger than 5 years and live in an area of increased risk such as Central Australia.

3. Non-Aboriginal children under 2 years who live in Central Australia.

4. Children under 5 years who are at high risk due to certain medical conditions.

Other groups

For those not in the high risk category, the vaccine is available for about \$140 a dose.

For further information contact the Public Health Unit.

## BRIEFS

### Immunisation update

October 23rd at Coraki Conference Centre.

For further information, call Marianne Trent at the PHU on (02) 6620 7514.

### Accreditation course

The immunisation accreditation course has enrolments starting each month. If you are not accredited please consider enrolment. Phone the NSW College of Nursing, Distance Education for details on (02) 9745 7517.

### MMR 18-30 year olds

A national media Campaign for the 18 -30 year olds for MMR will start in late July in cinemas and on the back of toilet doors. Please let your GPs know that they should order extra MMR vaccine through the State Vaccine Centre and use their current fridge stock for any 18 - 30 year olds who may present opportunistically.

### Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander indicator

The facility to indicate a child is an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is now available when submitting vaccine information via the Record Encounter option on the ACIR website. Parental consent must be sought before including this information.

If an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child was born before the new schedule was implemented, the failure to report the change of schedule may result in the child being recorded as having an incomplete immunisation schedule.

### Pneumococcal and flu vax acquittal forms

The pneumococcal and influenza acquittal forms will be distributed to practices at the end of August for acquittal in September 2001. The acquittal process will be the same as last year where the practice had to record the number of vaccines ordered, given and left in the fridge.

### Computer aid to help with pneumococcal recall

CSL Vaccines has developed a computer program that is compatible with Medical Director and will assist in identifying and recalling patients who are at risk from serious pneumococcal infection and should consider receiving the vaccine. The CSL rep, Alan Cocks, is visiting GPs, or he can be contacted on 0414 731 018.

### Record encounter enhancement

Earlier this month a change was made to the record encounter page on the website. This change related to providers being able to select the provider number (from a drop down box) of the practice at which the vaccination was performed. This function will only affect Medicare GPs who have more than one location attached to their provider number. If you need more information, please give the division a call.