

Community Pharmacies offering immunisation services

Tēnā koe

Additional funded immunisations added to Schedule 3A.5 (Immunisations Services) of the Integrated Community Pharmacy Services Agreement (ICPSA) from 1 April 2024

Health New Zealand - Te Whatu Ora (Health NZ) acknowledges and appreciates the great efforts from pharmacy teams to protect people in Aotearoa against vaccine preventable diseases and reduce the potential burden of disease on the health system.

From Monday 1 April 2024 the following vaccines will be added to Schedule 3A.5 (Immunisations Services) of the Integrated Community Pharmacy Services Agreement (ICPSA):

- DTaP-IPV - diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis, polio
- DTaP-IPV HepB/Hib - diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis, polio, hepatitis B, Haemophilus influenzae type b
- Haemophilus influenzae type b
- Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13)
- Rotavirus (oral)
- Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine.

The six vaccines above have been added to the ICPSA Immunisation Schedule, so that vaccinating pharmacies can claim the vaccine administration fee for funded vaccines delivered to eligible people, by appropriately trained vaccinators, as per the terms of the ICPSA.

Health NZ and the Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC) will be offering training to upskill Pharmacist Vaccinators to Authorised Vaccinator status enabling the administration of vaccines across all age groups, by removing the age barriers Pharmacist Vaccinators encounter for some vaccines under their medicine classification.

This amendment to the ICPSA supports whole-of-life vaccinations across all age ranges in the New Zealand Immunisation Schedule. This excludes birth immunisations such as high-risk babies eligible for birth hepatitis B,¹ BCG (tuberculosis) and yellow fever vaccine which requires additional authorisation.

This change will increase access to immunisation and enable an all whānau approach by removing age barriers with pharmacies able to offer vaccinations across all age ranges and providing whānau more choice for health prevention services.

This means that from 1 April 2024, pharmacies will be able to supply the following funded immunisations to eligible people, according to the Pharmaceutical Schedule:

¹ High-risk baby vaccines also include Varilrix (funded chickenpox vaccine for high-risk infants), Nimenrix (meningococcal ACWY vaccine, this will be funded from 1 June 2024 for high-risk infants) and Havrix and Havrix Junior (monovalent hepatitis A for high-risk infants).

Vaccine	Currently funded brand
Diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis (Tdap)	Boostrix
DTaP-IPV - diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis, polio	Infanrix-IPV
DTaP-IPV HepB/Hib - diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis, polio, hepatitis B, Haemophilus influenzae type b	Infanrix-hexa
Haemophilus influenzae type b	Hiberix
Human papillomavirus (HPV)	Gardasil 9
Influenza	Afluria Quad Junior Afluria Quad FluQuadri
Measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine (MMR)	Priorix
Meningococcal ACWY	MenQuadfi
Meningococcal B	Bexsero
Rotavirus	Rotarix
Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine	Varivax
Varicella Zoster (shingles)	Shingrix

Please note that the COVID-19 vaccinations are covered under a separate agreement to the ICPSA.

In addition, on 1 April 2024 Pharmac will remove the Pharmaceutical Schedule Xpharm² restriction from the six new vaccines. This enables community pharmacies with an existing Schedule 3A.5 (Immunisation Services) in their ICPSA to order vaccines at no cost, for administration to eligible individuals.

Please refer to the 'Planning Guide: funded vaccines in community pharmacy (2024, v2)' for information on ordering, recording, and claiming the six newly funded vaccines.

Thank you again for the vital roles you and your teams play in protecting people in Aotearoa against vaccine preventable diseases.

Ngā mihi

Martin Hefford
Director, Living Well
Commissioning

² An Xpharm listing means that community pharmacies cannot claim subsidy because Pharmac has made alternate distribution arrangements.