Planning Guide: funded vaccines in community pharmacy

July 2023

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**INCREASING ACCESS TO FUNDED VACCINES IN COMMUNITY PHARMACIES**

Tēnā koutou,

The National Immunisation Programme (the Programme) acknowledges and appreciates the increasingly significant role community pharmacies play in lifting vaccination rates across the motu.

On 1 June 2023, Pharmac removed the Xpharm restriction from four vaccines on the National Immunisation Schedule. This change allows vaccinating community pharmacies to provide funded immunisations to eligible health consumers. These four vaccines are as follows:

* + Meningococcal B (Bexsero®)
  + Meningococcal ACWY (MenQuadfi®)
  + Human papillomavirus (HPV) (Gardasil 9®)
  + Varicella zoster (Shingles) (Shingrix®)

The list price for MMR vaccine (Priorix®) will be removed to align with the availability of the vaccines listed above. Funded Tdap vaccine (Boostrix®) has been available for vaccinating pharmacies to order since 2022.

From **1 August 2023**, vaccinating pharmacies that hold an Immunisation Schedule within their Integrated Community Pharmacy Service Agreement (ICPSA) that incorporates Variation 4, will be enabled to order identified vaccines (full range listed page 4) with no upfront purchase cost, administer them to eligible health consumers according to Pharmac eligibility criteria, record the vaccination and claim the immunisation administration fee for this service.

Providing equitable immunisation services

We acknowledge the role of pharmacy for our communities. By making these funded vaccines available for pharmacies, it will provide our communities with a wider range of vaccination options and help contribute to more equitable vaccination uptake for whānau, aligning with our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. We embrace the opportunity to partner with providers to encourage whānau to obtain vaccinations and empowering whānau to access vaccination services in a manner that best meets their needs.

Supporting pharmacy

To support the sector in this expansion of immunisation services in community pharmacy, this operational document has been developed to assist in the planning for the introduction of these vaccines. Further updates would be cascaded via usual pharmacy communication channels. The following forums are also planned:

* + The Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC) held a clinical refresher webinar on 6 July 2023. The webinar has been recorded and is available [here](https://www.immune.org.nz/education/webinars).
  + The Programme will run an Operational Drop-in Q&A session via Teams from 6:30 - 7:30pm on 19 July 2023. A link to join the session is [here](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZTIxNTNkM2UtZGRhYS00NmE4LWE0M2MtZTZkOWUyNjM2MDk3%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2223cec724-6d20-4bd1-9fe9-dc4447edd1fa%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2211c69fa5-473e-4dc4-a43b-17411c55eeeb%22%2c%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3atrue%7d). This will be an open forum for districts, immunisation co-ordinators and pharmacy staff to have their operational questions answered.
  + If you have any questions or comments at any stage, please reach out to the Programme at [immunisation@health.govt.nz](mailto:immunisation@health.govt.nz)

Thank you again for the continued commitment from you and your teams in protecting people in Aotearoa against vaccine preventable diseases.

Ngā mihi,



Rob Humphrys

Acting GM, Operations

National Immunisation Programme

**ADDITIONAL VACCINES AVAILABLE FROM 1 AUGUST 2023**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| VACCINE BRANDS | |
| Meningococcal (MenB – Bexsero) - Vaccine IngredientsBEXSERO®  On the immunisation [schedule](https://schedule.pharmac.govt.nz/ScheduleOnline.php?edition=&osq=Bexsero) at ages 3 months, 5 months and 12 months plus high-risk groups | MenQuadfi | Vaccines & biologics | Product Catalog | Vaxserve US Site  MENQUADFI®  On the immunisation [schedule](https://schedule.pharmac.govt.nz/ScheduleOnline.php?edition=&osq=MenQuadfi) for certain high-risk groups |
| Cervical Screening - Family PlanningGARDASIL 9®  On the immunisation [schedule](https://schedule.pharmac.govt.nz/ScheduleOnline.php?edition=&osq=Human+papillomavirus+%286%2C+11%2C+16%2C+18%2C+31%2C+33%2C+45%2C+52+and+58%29+vaccine+%5BHPV%5D) at ages 11 to 12 years | SHINGRIX®  On the immunisation [schedule](https://schedule.pharmac.govt.nz/ScheduleOnline.php?edition=&osq=Shingrix) for people in their 65th year of life |

These vaccines are in addition to the funded vaccines already available to community pharmacy:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * MMR | * COVID-19 |
| * Tdap | * Influenza |

See page 4 for full details.

**LINKS AND RESOURCES**

Funded eligibility

Pharmac is the agency responsible for setting the eligibility criteria for funded immunisations in Aotearoa. For full criteria visit the [Pharmac Pharmaceutical Schedule](https://schedule.pharmac.govt.nz/ScheduleOnline.php?code=A452501).

General information

If you have any questions or comments, please reach out to the National Immunisation Programme at [immunisation@health.govt.nz](mailto:immunisation@health.govt.nz).

Clinical queries

For clinical advice contact the Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC):

* 0800 IMMUNE (0800 466 863)

Weekdays 8:30am to 5:00pm

* [0800immune@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:0800immune@auckland.ac.nz)

Resources specific to the vaccines and vaccinator screening tools can be found on the IMAC website [here](http://www.immune.org.nz).

Detailed immunisation guidelines are available in the [Immunisation Handbook 2020](https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/immunisation-handbook-2020)

**VACCINATION IN PHARMACIES**

Below is the full range of vaccines that a vaccinating pharmacy may offer1:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| VACCINE | PHARMACIST VACCINATOR | INTERN PHARMACIST VACCINATOR | AGE RESTRICTIONS & FUNDING |
| Meningococcal B (Bexsero)   * MenB | Yes | Medicines Regulations 1984 does not allow intern pharmacists to administer | * Funded as per Pharmac eligibility [criteria](https://schedule.pharmac.govt.nz/ScheduleOnline.php?edition=&osq=Bexsero) * Medicines Regulations 1984 restrict pharmacist vaccinators to administer to those 16 years and over |
| Meningococcal ACWY (MenQuadfi)   * MenACWY | Yes | Medicines Regulations 1984 does not allow intern pharmacists to administer | * Funded as per Pharmac eligibility [criteria](https://schedule.pharmac.govt.nz/ScheduleOnline.php?edition=&osq=MenQuadfi) * Medicines Regulations 1984 restrict pharmacist vaccinators to administer to those 16 years and over |
| Human papillomavirus (Gardasil 9)   * HPV9 | Yes | Yes | * Funded as per Pharmac eligibility [criteria](https://schedule.pharmac.govt.nz/ScheduleOnline.php?edition=&osq=Gardasil+9) |
| Varicella zoster (Shingles) (Shingrix)   * rZV | Yes | Medicines Regulations 1984 does not allow intern pharmacists to administer | * Funded as per Pharmac eligibility [criteria](https://schedule.pharmac.govt.nz/ScheduleOnline.php?edition=&osq=Shingrix) (i.e. in their 65th year of life) * Medicines Regulations 1984 restrict pharmacist vaccinators to administer to those 50 years and over (funded or unfunded) |
| Measles, mumps and rubella (Priorix)   * MMR | Yes | Yes | * Funded as per Pharmac eligibility [criteria](https://schedule.pharmac.govt.nz/ScheduleOnline.php?edition=&osq=Measles%2C+mumps+and+rubella+vaccine) (i.e. no 2 documented doses) * 3 years and over |
| Tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Boostrix)   * Tdap | Yes | Medicines Regulations 1984 does not allow intern pharmacists to administer | * Funded as per Pharmac eligibility [criteria](https://schedule.pharmac.govt.nz/ScheduleOnline.php?edition=&osq=Boostrix) (i.e. 45y, 65y, each pregnancy) * Medicines Regulations 1984 restrict pharmacist vaccinators to administer to anyone 18 years and over, or 13 years and over if pregnant. |
| Influenza (multiple brands)   * Influenza | Yes | Yes | * Funded as per Pharmac eligibility [criteria](https://schedule.pharmac.govt.nz/ScheduleOnline.php?edition=&osq=Influenza+vaccine) * 3 years and over |
| COVID-19 (multiple brands)   * COVID-19 | Yes | Yes | * Funded as per Pharmac eligibility criteria * 3 years and over (with completion of appropriate COVID training) |

Funded via vaccinating pharmacies that hold an Immunisation Schedule within their Integrated Community Pharmacy Service Agreement (ICPSA) that incorporates Variation 4.

**WORKFORCE**

* **Pharmacist Vaccinators** have completed an approved vaccinator training course, have appropriate current first aid and comply with the immunisation standards of Manatū Hauora (Ministry of Health). Vaccinator education has been included in the Intern Pharmacist programme giving Intern Pharmacists the ability to provide vaccinations as well. The range of specified vaccines Pharmacist Vaccinators and Intern Pharmacist Vaccinators can administer is included on page 4. Further detail can be found on the IMAC website [here](https://www.immune.org.nz/immunisation-workforce/pharmacists).
* The clinical assessment undertaken by a vaccinator determines the age range they can vaccinate. The majority of Pharmacist Vaccinators have been assessed using the deltoid muscle, hence are restricted to administering to people aged 3 years and above (unless other restrictions apply a higher age band). A Pharmacist Vaccinator wishing to vaccinate infants will need to obtain suitable experience under prescription or standing order, an additional clinical assessment, and authorisation by local Medical Officer of Health. Pharmacists who wish to undertake this process should discuss with their [local Immunisation Coordinator](https://www.immune.org.nz/resources/regional-advisors-and-local-coordinators) to clarify any additional local requirements.
* **Provisional Pharmacist Vaccinators** are registered Pharmacists or Intern Pharmacists who have completed training and received provisional authorisation. They can only administer influenza (3 years and older) and MMR (16 years and older) vaccines, plus COVID-19 vaccines if they provide evidence of completing the required training. The Programme encourages Provisional Pharmacist Vaccinators to upskill to become [Pharmacist Vaccinators](https://www.immune.org.nz/immunisation-workforce/pharmacists) to deliver a broader scope of vaccines.

The [Flexible Learning Vaccinator Foundation course](https://www.immune.org.nz/education/courses-and-events) is available and free for those eligible to bridge across to become a Fully Authorised Vaccinator or Pharmacist Vaccinator.

More information the on authorisation and criteria for vaccinators can be found in the Immunisation Handbook [Appendix 4](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/immunisation-handbook-2020/appendix-4-authorisation-and-criteria-vaccinators). IMAC (0800 IMMUNE) can assist with clarification on vaccinator authorisation or which course to complete.

It is the responsibility of each vaccinator to ensure they maintain a current vaccinator authorisation status, appropriate first aid qualification and only practice within their scope.

* All vaccinating staff are encouraged to watch the IMAC clinical refresher webinar to gain knowledge and confidence in the vaccines that they may not be familiar with. The webinar will provide a recap of clinical information and pharmacy scope for the four new funded Xpharm vaccines, as well as the MMR and Tdap vaccines. This webinar was held on 6 July 2023 and the recording is available [here](https://www.immune.org.nz/education/webinars).
* Each vaccinator should clearly understand their scope of practice and restrictions linked to their authorisation, as well as the Pharmac eligibility criteria for all vaccines offered, as funded vaccine stock must be strictly reserved for only those health consumers who meet Pharmac eligibility criteria. To obtain clinical support or clarify the eligibility of a vaccine, IMAC (0800 IMMUNE) is available Mon-Fri from 8:30am-5:00pm.

Support for Pharmacist Vaccinators and Intern Pharmacist Vaccinators

Consider using a Vaccinating Healthcare Worker (VHW) or [Second Checker](https://www.immune.org.nz/catalogue/second-checker), to help manage the workload on vaccinating staff. Suitable staff for these roles may be pharmacy technicians, pharmacy students or retail assistants (consider for second checker roles). Information on these roles can be found [here](https://www.immune.org.nz/immunisation-workforce/unregulated-healthcare-professionals).

Vaccinators, including Pharmacist Vaccinators, may provide clinical supervision to VHW administering Tdap to 11- and 12-year-olds (a workaround for Medicines Regulations 1984 restricting pharmacist vaccinators to administer Tdap to anyone 18 years and over, or 13 years and over if pregnant).

**ONBOARDING**

Community pharmacy is known for clear processes and efficient workflow systems. During times of change or new service implementation, it is particularly important to ensure continuous quality improvement processes are in place to ensure a high-quality quality service is maintained at all times. It is strongly recommended that:

1. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are regularly updated to reflect the pharmacy’s current procedures and always adhered to.
2. A robust cold chain management system is in place.
3. All [required emergency equipment](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/immunisation-handbook-2020/appendix-4-authorisation-and-criteria-vaccinators#a4-6) is readily available and within use-by date.
4. Near misses are recorded and vaccine related errors are investigated and reported through usual incident management channels.
5. Consider completing a ‘dry run’ of the Service before beginning vaccinations to ensure staff are familiar with their roles and consumer flow is tested.
6. Consider a ‘wet run’ i.e., running at 50% capacity on the first day with any new service.

The first step to offer any of these newly available funded vaccines is to identify your current situation and follow the steps below. The community pharmacy **must** hold an Immunisation Schedule within their ICPSA that incorporates Variation 4 to offer funded vaccination services. If in doubt, confirm with your District Pharmacy Portfolio Manager.

1. Pharmacy offers a vaccination service, holds an ICPSA Variation 4 Immunisation Schedule but does not use the CIR Inventory Portal
   * The pharmacy must request access to the CIR Inventory Portal where funded vaccines available to community pharmacy are managed. The Pharmacy must contact their District Pharmacy Portfolio Manager to process a new site setup form found in Appendix B of the COVID-19 Operating Guidelines [here](https://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccine-information-health-professionals/covid-19-vaccine-operating-and-planning-guidelines). This process takes 5 working days to establish.
   * Once access to the CIR Inventory Portal is granted, a vaccinating pharmacy can order any or all of the available funded vaccines listed on page 4 as and when their team are ready to commence offering these new vaccination services.
2. Pharmacy offers a vaccination service, holds an ICPSA Variation 4 Immunisation Schedule and uses the CIR Inventory Portal
   * From 1 August 2023, the full range of funded vaccines available to vaccinating pharmacies will be listed and can be ordered in the CIR Inventory Portal.
   * A vaccinating pharmacy can order any or all of the available funded vaccines listed on page 4 as and when their teams are ready to commence offering these new services.

On 1 August 2023, there will be a bulk CIR update of all pharmacies that hold an Immunisation Schedule within their ICPSA that incorporates Variation 4 **and** has current CIR Inventory Portal access. This means all of the funded vaccines listed on page 4 will show as available to be ordered through the CIR Inventory Portal for these pharmacies.

The exception is:

* **MenACWY, which has limited access** – see page 8 for further details.
* **Influenza** – continue to order via usual wholesaler

1. Pharmacy does not offer a vaccination service but wishes to do so
   * For a pharmacy to offer funded vaccinations, they must contact their District Pharmacy Portfolio Manager to discuss the process to include the Immunisation Schedule in their ICPSA. They will liaise with Sector Operations and Immunisation leads to update the contract, a process that can take weeks. Confirm with the District Pharmacy Portfolio Manager for when the pharmacy can start offering funded vaccinations during this process.Some Districts require a visit and sign-off by a District Immunisation Lead and/or Immunisation Co-ordinators before the Immunisation Schedule is awarded.
   * The pharmacy must ensure they have suitably trained and qualified staff, standard operating procedures and a robust [cold chain](https://www.immune.org.nz/vaccines/cold-chain) management system in place to safely offer vaccination services. District Immunisation Leads and/or Immunisation Co-ordinators may be able to assist with the onboarding process. A pharmacy’s License to Operate Pharmacy denotes cold chain accreditation that is required to provide an immunisation service; however the district [Immunisation Co-ordinator](https://www.immune.org.nz/resources/regional-advisors-and-local-coordinators) will need to undertake spatial logging of the pharmaceutical refrigerator used to store vaccines.
   * The pharmacy must request access to the CIR Inventory Portal where funded vaccines available for community pharmacy are managed. The pharmacy must contact their District Pharmacy Portfolio Manager to process a new site setup form found in Appendix B at [COVID-19: Vaccine operating and planning guidelines | Ministry of Health NZ](https://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccine-information-health-professionals/covid-19-vaccine-operating-and-planning-guidelines) . This process takes 5 working days to establish.
   * Once access to the CIR Inventory Portal is granted, a vaccinating pharmacy can order any or all of the available funded vaccines listed on page 4 as and when their team are ready to commence offering these new vaccination services.
   * .

Accessibility

A pharmacy should consider how their vaccination area/space may be optimised to ensure it is accessible for those with disabilities or mobility issues. Resources and support are available in the [NIP Dropbox](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/vllk5cpjzfzt6yc/AAB8FX_Jgk0WmNs0Pe3in5sra/NIP%20%E2%80%93%20Vaccine%20promotional%20material/Getting%20a%20vaccine%20-%20support%20material%20and%20accessible%20formats/Vaccine%20teams%20%E2%80%93%20making%20your%20venue%20more%20accessible?dl=0&subfolder_nav_tracking=1).

Coordinating services

It is recommended that a vaccinating pharmacy notifies their local Immunisation Co-ordinator, District Immunisation Lead and District Pharmacy Portfolio Manager to let them know that they are offering new vaccination services. These people being aware of who is offering vaccination services assists with the wider district planning and central health consumer communications.

As of June 2023, Te Whatu Ora is now funding all community pharmacies across Aotearoa to be comprehensively profiled on Healthpoint with all services.

A pharmacy should check that their Book My Vaccine and Healthpoint profiles accurately reflects which vaccines are currently being offered:

* To update or obtain support for Book My Vaccine, email: [help@imms.min.health.nz](mailto:help@imms.min.health.nz)
* Go to [www.healthpoint.co.nz](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.healthpoint.co.nz%2F&data=05%7C01%7COlivia.Haslam%40health.govt.nz%7C8f5a232048714b8673ab08db78ed176c%7C23cec7246d204bd19fe9dc4447edd1fa%7C0%7C0%7C638236731930336517%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=r5qlpUOJ%2BRhK%2BXr2UiMPF%2F%2FkCSE2b0hy7MubfKpyufY%3D&reserved=0) to log-in and update your Healthpoint profile. If you need assistance with editing, please contact [info@healthpoint.co.nz](mailto:info@healthpoint.co.nz)

**ORDERING**

Funded vaccine stock

* To ensure vaccines are used, to reduce wastage the Programme asks that pharmacies only order vaccines where they actively plan to offer them to their community.
* Pharmacies can place orders for available funded vaccines via their CIR Inventory Portal from 1 August 2023. These funded vaccines are provided at no cost to the pharmacy and can only be administered to those who qualify for the vaccine in accordance with the Pharmac eligibility criteria.
* Orders will be delivered **weekly** on designated delivery days i.e., the same day as existing COVID-19 vaccine delivery. The designated delivery day is established when CIR is first set up and is listed in CIR Inventory Portal. Order sufficient stock to ensure opportunistic vaccinations within your set weekly delivery dates.

Private purchase vaccine stock

* Pharmacies must order private purchase vaccines via their usual wholesaler for health consumers who do not meet Pharmac vaccine eligibility criteria. For example, an unfunded Tdap vaccination is recommended for the partner or grandparents of a pregnant person and can be ordered as a single Tdap vaccine via a wholesaler, and the upfront cost of the vaccine plus the administration fee can be passed to the health consumer as a private purchase.
* **Funded vaccine stock obtained via the CIR Inventory Portal should be kept separate from privately purchased stock in a pharmacy’s vaccine refrigerator. Funded vaccines are to be strictly used for only those who meet Pharmac’s eligibility criteria.**

**Access to ordering the MenACWY vaccine will be restricted due to limited stock and will be actively managed via District Pharmacy Portfolio Managers (or in their absence, the local Immunisation lead).**

To offer MenACWY vaccination, pharmacies should indicate their interest to their Portfolio Manager. The Portfolio Manager will coordinate the request and formally approve the pharmacy to provide MenACWY vaccinations. The pharmacy should be able to demonstrate identified demand e.g., the pharmacy has been requested to vaccinate boarding school students.

The Portfolio Manager will advise the District Logistics Coordinator who will add the MenACWY vaccine to the CIR Inventory Portal for that named pharmacy. Authorised pharmacies should only order sufficient stock for identified demand. This process will remain in place during the expected stock shortage. Pharmac will provide an update when the stock shortage is resolved.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| VACCINES | PHARMACODE – FUNDED  *Order via CIR Inventory Portal weekly* | PHARMACODE - UNFUNDED | | |
| MenB | Bexsero 2556251 (single)  *Maximum order quantity: 20 units* | HCL – Bexsero | 2556251 (single) |
| MenACWY | MenQuadfi 2649012 (single)  *Maximum order quantity: 10 units* | HCL - Menactra  HCL - MenQuadfi | 1179341 (5 pack)  2649012 (single) |
| HPV | Gardasil9 2506254 (10 pack)  *Maximum order quantity: 20 units (2xOP)* | HCL - Gardasil 9 | 2485427 (single) |
| rZV/Shingles | Shingrix 2631687 (single)  *Maximum order quantity: 10 units* | HCL - Shingrix | 1173125 (single) |
| Propharma - Shingrix | 2631687 (single) |
| MMR | Priorix 2509369 (10 pack)  *Maximum order quantity: 20 units (2xOP)* | HCL - Priorix | 1161737 (single) |
| Tdap | Boostrix 2459418 (10 pack)  *Maximum order quantity: 50 units (5xOP)* | HCL/Propharma - Boostrix | 2061996 (single) |
| Influenza | Order via usual pharmacy wholesaler. Has upfront cost. | | |
| COVID-19 | Order via CIR Inventory Portal (various brands) | | |

**ADMINISTRATION**

Screening tools

It is the vaccinator’s responsibility to ensure any vaccine administered is appropriately indicated for the health consumer and that the health consumer has met the Pharmac eligibility criteria. IMAC has developed a [health professional screening tool](https://www.immune.org.nz/factsheets/pre-vaccination-screening-tool) as well as a [patient version](https://www.immune.org.nz/factsheets/pre-vaccination-screening-tool-patient-version) to assist with the screening process.

Collateral

There is a [summary](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/8sxalzeh2bbhrviumsdn4/h?dl=0&preview=%23Collateral+overview+19+June+2023.pdf&rlkey=7wi4jptjya48cpxzz39lmmjgy) of the consumer collateral available to download via the [NIP Dropbox](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/vllk5cpjzfzt6yc/AACVZODAfpzqtCoxbTyWjVHja/NIP%20%E2%80%93%20Vaccine%20promotional%20material?dl=0). Pharmacies can also order printed copies for free via Bluestar. This includes some vaccine-specific post vaccination advice. [HealthEd](https://healthed.govt.nz/) also has free vaccination resources available to order.

To register on the [Bluestar portal](https://portal.bluestar.co.nz/login/moh_vaccine) pharmacies should select ‘Need to Register’ and complete the online registration form.

In the NIP Dropbox there are accessible formats for some resources, including audio, braille, easy read and large print.

Health consumers can also obtain information from the new immunisation website: <https://www.immunise.health.nz/>

Consent

* + The Programme assumes verbal [consent](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/immunisation-handbook-2020/2-processes-safe-immunisation#2-1) is appropriate in most situations. A vaccinators clinical knowledge will allow for a robust informed consent conversation with the health consumer, including discussion around risks and benefits. Generic screening tools are also available to assist (see links below).
  + Written consent is recommended when a health consumer is not competent to make an informed choice and give consent for their vaccine. Written consent forms are available via Dropbox and Bluestar for influenza, COVID-19, Tdap, MMR and antenatal immunisations. A generic written consent form is in development by the Programme and will be made available later in the year. The Aotearoa Immunisation Register (AIR) does not have the functionality to upload written consent forms and so physical copies should be kept by the provider for 10 years to meet Health Act regulations.

Vaccination history

It is best clinical practice to discuss vaccination status with the health consumer prior to administering any vaccine. **If a dose of a particular vaccine is not documented and is clinically indicated for the health consumer, the vaccinator should proceed with vaccination.** More detail on this clinical decision-making process is covered in the IMAC clinical training webinar.

All vaccinators should review a health consumer’s vaccination history to determine which vaccines the person may be due for. **The Aotearoa Immunisation Register (AIR) vaccinator portal displays a health consumer’s** [**vaccination history**](https://ncts.my.salesforce.com/sfc/p/#4a0000008aXT/a/4a0000004RP6/V1u7n5xZfS9Q4VH77oYe8ArEMCvTwsojB1Juq8zcPXM) **from existing records such as the COVID-19 Immunisation Register (CIR) and National Immunisation Register (NIR**). All vaccines recorded in AIR will be sent to the enrolled practitioner just as for CIR and NIR.

Consumables

Needles for drawing up and administration, plasters and other consumables must be purchased by the immunisation provider. The cost of these consumables is covered by the immunisation administration fee.

Pharmacies should hold a [variety of needle sizes](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/immunisation-handbook-2020/2-processes-safe-immunisation#2-2) to ensure the appropriate one is selected for the health consumer. Consumables can be purchased from usual pharmacy wholesalers, EBOS or Amtech.

**RECORDING**

*The details below are current as of July 2023:*

All vaccinations should be recorded in the appropriate national register as below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| VACCINES | AGE (funded or unfunded) | RECORDING |
| HPV, MMR | Under 13 years | NIR3 form |
| 13 years and over | AIR |
| Tdap | 13 years and over if pregnant  If not pregnant, 18 years and over | AIR |
| MenB, MenACWY | 16 years and over | AIR |
| rZV/Shingles | 50 years and over | AIR |
| Influenza | All ages | CIR / AIR |
| COVID-19 | All ages | CIR |

This age limitation is a temporary measure while AIR is in a transition phase. AIR will be able to accommodate childhood vaccines later in 2023 when the entire health sector transitions from the NIR to AIR.

For pharmacies who are not registered to use AIR, please follow the link [here](https://www.immunisationregister.nphs.health.nz/AIR/s/signup) and complete the sign-up steps. For more support using AIR, there is a [toolkit](https://www.tewhatuora.govt.nz/our-health-system/digital-health/the-aotearoa-immunisation-register-air/key/#air-general-deck) available on the AIR [website](https://www.tewhatuora.govt.nz/our-health-system/digital-health/the-aotearoa-immunisation-register-air/the-aotearoa-immunisation-register-air/).

The Aotearoa Immunisation Register (AIR) vaccinator portal displays a health consumer’s [vaccination history](https://ncts.my.salesforce.com/sfc/p/#4a0000008aXT/a/4a0000004RP6/V1u7n5xZfS9Q4VH77oYe8ArEMCvTwsojB1Juq8zcPXM) from existing records such as the COVID-19 Immunisation Register (CIR) and National Immunisation Register (NIR). If a vaccination is recorded by pharmacy in AIR, this vaccination will also be able to be seen by other health professionals through the AIR vaccinator portal. If the person vaccinated is enrolled with a General Practice, that General Practice will receive a notification of any vaccine recorded in AIR to their Patient Management System (PMS), this is similar to how the NIR and CIR work.

Vaccines recorded in AIR are not visible in NIR therefore AIR is restricted to adult vaccines only (13+ years) at this stage, until the AIR fully replaces the NIR which is due to be complete later this year.

NIR3 Forms

To record a vaccination for health consumers that are younger than 13 years old, a pharmacy will need to complete an NIR3 form and email a copy to their District Immunisation Administrators for manual entry into the National Immunisation Register (NIR). The NIR3 forms can be found by following the link [here](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/preventative-health-wellness/vaccine-information-healthcare-professionals/national-immunisation-register/national-immunisation-register-publications). Contact details can be found [here](https://www.tewhatuora.govt.nz/our-health-system/digital-health/the-aotearoa-immunisation-register-air/the-aotearoa-immunisation-register-air/) under FAQs – *How can I contact my local AIR administrator?*

Support for immunisation systems

For technical support with the Aotearoa Immunisation Register (AIR) call 0800 855 066 (press 2 and then 1). For support with the CIR Inventory Portal and Book My Vaccine call 0800 223 987. For all systems email [help@imms.min.health.nz](mailto:help@imms.min.health.nz). These channels are currently monitored:

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| 8:00am – 5:00pm, Monday to Friday (from 9:30am on Wednesdays) | 9:00am – 2:00pm, Saturday |

**CLAIMING**

Claiming for a funded vaccine administration should be processed like a normal prescription – via the prescription batch claiming process through your pharmacy management system (Toniq or RxOne). **This process has been updated from 1 August 2023 for** **all funded vaccines available to community pharmacy** – including funded influenza vaccines.

Processing any funded vaccine via Pharmacy Management System

1. Dispense the vaccine(s) administered to the eligible health consumer.
2. Dispense one ‘Immunisation Administration’ (pharmacode 2660733) to claim the service fee for administration of funded vaccine(s).

**As per the ICPSA; “*nothing in this Schedule entitles the Provider to receive more than one Immunisation Services Fee if more than one Vaccine is administered to an Eligible Service User on the same day”.***

* + Some vaccines may have two pharmacodes, e.g., the HPV vaccine comes as a 10-pack when ordered via the CIR Inventory Portal (for funded vaccinations) and as a single pack via a wholesaler (for unfunded vaccinations). Pharmacies should ensure they select the correct pharmacode based on the pack size and the eligibility of health consumer.
  + Other vaccines may have one pharmacode, e.g., meningococcal vaccines, covering both funded and private purchased stock. The pharmacy is required to code the vaccine as J4/A4 if Pharmac’s eligibility criteria is met or NSS if the vaccine is to be purchased privately.
* Only the funded influenza vaccine will provide a claim for the vaccine cost (cost set by Pharmac) as the influenza vaccine is purchased upfront by all vaccination providers.

**The process for claiming for COVID-19 vaccinations has not changed as it sits in a different Immunisation Schedule. Continue to record and claim for COVID-19 vaccinations in the CIR.**

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| VACCINES | PHARMACODE – FUNDED  *Order via CIR Inventory Portal* | CLAIMING |
| MenB | Bexsero 2556251 (single) | Complete in Pharmacy Management System (RxOne, Toniq). Select correct pharmacode based on table on page 8.  **If funded:**   1. Dispense vaccine(s) as A4/J4 2. Dispense one ‘Immunisation Administration’ to claim fee   **If unfunded** enter vaccine(s) as NSS. The cost of the vaccine plus the administration fee can be passed to the health consumer as a private purchase. |
| MenACWY | MenQuadfi 2649012 (single) |
| HPV | Gardasil9 2506254 (10 pack) |
| rZV/Shingles | Shingrix 2631687 (single) |
| MMR | Priorix 2509369 (10 pack) |
| Tdap | Boostrix 2459418 (10 pack) |
| Influenza | Various brands.  Order via usual wholesaler. |
| COVID-19 | Various brands.  Order via CIR Inventory Portal. | Complete as usual in CIR: each vaccination will automatically generate the separate COVID-19 Vaccination Administration Fee. |

The Programme acknowledges the additional workload on community pharmacy to record the administration of the vaccination in AIR and then claim for the vaccine administration fee via the pharmacy management system (Toniq or RxOne). Work is underway to streamline this process to reduce administrative workload for the pharmacy sector.

**VACCINE BOOKINGS**

The Programme encourages vaccination providers to use Book My Vaccine (BMV) to help assist and simplify workflow for making health consumer bookings.

As of June 2023, health consumers can make vaccination bookings through Book My Vaccine (BMV) for COVID-19 (all ages), influenza (all ages), Tdap (13 years and older) and MMR (13 years and older). If a pharmacy delivers publicly funded vaccinations to casual or unenrolled consumers, it is encouraged they use BMV to ensure whānau can self-identify how to access vaccinations from their local providers.

* + Vaccinating pharmacies who want to sign up to use BMV can choose to either offer ‘live’ appointments or be listed as vaccination provider with a link to a website for further information. A new site and user set up form can be accessed [here](mailto:here), and returned to [help@imms.min.health.nz](mailto:help@imms.min.health.nz).
  + Vaccinating pharmacies who are existing users of BMV and would like to change the vaccines available for appointments can log in and [manage their vaccine supplies](https://ncts.my.salesforce.com/sfc/p/#4a0000008aXT/a/4a0000005l45/uJ.A4O5yGD3aU9xswPqhfKX5N5ypjAY0DEvFxAs.zl8), or compete a [new vaccine form](mailto:new%20vaccine%20form) and return to [help@imms.min.health.nz](mailto:help@imms.min.health.nz).
  + Vaccinating pharmacies who use BMV will need log in to view consumer bookings and manage appointment schedules.
  + To request technical support with using BMV, email [help@imms.min.health.nz](mailto:help@imms.min.health.nz) or call 0800 223 987.
  + In the future BMV may be expanded with additional vaccine types.

Further information on BMV for providers can be found [here](https://www.tewhatuora.govt.nz/our-health-system/digital-health/book-my-vaccine/).