

National Immunisation Programme Early introduction of Infanrix-hexa vaccine

The following information was faxed to healthcare providers on 3 March 2008.

Infanrix-hexa (diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis-inactivated polio-hepatitis B and Hib) vaccine will be introduced from March 2008. Infanrix-hexa replaces the DTaP-IPV (Infanrix-IPV) and Hib-HepB (Comvax) vaccines at 6 weeks and 3 months of age, and can replace the DTaP-IPV (Infanrix-IPV) and HepB (HBvaxPRO) vaccines at 5 months of age.

This document includes information on the following points:

1. eligibility for Infanrix-hexa vaccine
2. supplies of Hib-HepB (Comvax) vaccine
3. Infanrix-hexa box and needle dimensions
4. Infanrix-hexa reconstitution and administration
5. cold chain management
6. entering Infanrix-hexa into your Practice Management System and the NIR
7. claiming the immunisation benefit.

1. Who is eligible for Infanrix-hexa vaccine?

All children due for their 6 week and 3 month (DTaP-IPV and Hib-HepB) immunisations are eligible to receive Infanrix-hexa.

The Ministry recommends Infanrix-hexa also be given to children at 5 months of age, replacing DTaP-IPV and HepB (HBvaxPRO). However, if preferred DTaP-IPV and HepB vaccines may still be given to 5 month old babies until 1 June 2008.

A change of vaccine within a primary series is safe and expected to be as effective as a course of one vaccine throughout.

2. When will Hib-HepB (Comvax) supplies run out?

Based on current Comvax levels, the Ministry estimates that Comvax supplies will run out from 17 March 2008. If ProPharma cannot fill your Comvax order, Infanrix-hexa vaccine will be supplied instead.

Please continue to use your practice's supply of Comvax vaccine until it has run out.

New ProPharma vaccine order forms are being printed to include Infanrix-hexa vaccine. If you have not received your new order form by 12 March please call your local ProPharma Store or ProPharma Auckland on 0800 400 101. New vaccine order forms contain the statement "**valid from March to May 2008**".

3. What are the Infanrix-hexa box and needle dimensions?

Pack	Description	Box Dimensions (Length x Width x Height)	Needles (Gauge and Length)
10-pack box	10 pre-filled syringes containing DTaP-IPV-HepB suspension 10 glass vials containing the Hib pellet	115 x 200 x 50 mm	10 X Terumo Luer 25G X 5/8" 0.5 mm x 16 mm 10 X Terumo Luer 23G X 1" 0.6 mm x 25 mm Needles are not attached

4. How is Infanrix-hexa administered?

Infanrix-hexa vaccine is administered by intramuscular injection into the thigh.

Infanrix-hexa vaccine must be reconstituted prior to administration:

- i) attach the 25-gauge needle to the pre-filled syringe
- ii) transfer the syringe's liquid suspension to the vial containing the Hib pellet
- iii) shake the vial well to ensure the Hib pellet is completely dissolved
- iv) draw the reconstituted vaccine back into the syringe
- v) attach the 23-gauge needle to the syringe for vaccine administration.

5. Cold chain management

Infanrix-hexa vaccine should be stored between +2°C to +8°C. Protect from light.

The DTaP-IPV-HepB suspension and the reconstituted DTaP-IPV-HepB/Hib vaccine should not be frozen. Discard if frozen.

After reconstitution, the vaccine should be injected promptly. However the vaccine may be kept for up to 8 hours at room temperature (21°C).

6. How do I enter Infanrix-hexa into my Practice Management System (PMS) and the NIR prior to 1 June 2008?

Until 1 June 2008, enter Infanrix-hexa into the PMS as two separate vaccines (two events):

- therefore enter Hib-HepB (or HepB) and then enter DTaP-IPV as separate events (as you currently do with the 2006 Childhood Immunisation Schedule)
- enter the same Infanrix-hexa batch number and expiry date into both events' batch number and expiry field.

Note: Prior to 1 June 2008, this will be recorded in your PMS and the NIR as if two separate vaccinations were given. PMS and NIR upgrades for Infanrix-hexa are expected from 1 June 2008.

7. How do I claim the immunisation benefit for Infanrix-hexa prior to 1 June 2008?


There will be no change to your current immunisation claiming process. Record the Infanrix-hexa vaccination event as if two separate vaccinations were given, as described above.

8. Where can I find more information about Infanrix-hexa vaccine?

Prescribing information for the Infanrix-hexa vaccine is available in the Medicine Data Sheet section of the Medsafe website: www.medsafe.govt.nz

If you require further information, please contact Dr Alison Roberts (Senior Advisor, Public Health Medicine Specialist) ph: 04 816 4384 or alison_roberts@moh.govt.nz) or Jane Chambers (Senior Analyst, National Immunisation Programme) ph: 04 816 4420 or jane_chambers@moh.govt.nz or see the Ministry of Health website: www.moh.govt.nz/immunisation

Yours sincerely



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