

Immunisation Network Newsletter

April 2005

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National ACIR coverage percentages as at 31 March 2005

Cohort 1—children aged between 12–15 months, born between 01/10/2003 and 31/12/2003.

Cohort 2—children aged between 24–27 months, born between 01/10/2002 and 31/12/2002.

Cohort 3—children aged between 72–75 months, born between 01/10/1998 and 31/12/1998.

	ACT	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	AUS
Cohort 1	92.7	90.7	90.8	90.8	91.2	89.2	92.9	92.2	90.7
Cohort 2	93.7	90.9	92.2	91.9	92.7	90.6	94.0	95.0	91.7
Cohort 3	89.8	83.7	85.8	80.5	82.8	79.8	84.2	85.1	83.3

Full coverage details at a vaccine level are available at www.hic.gov.au/acir under the heading statistics. These figures are updated quarterly.

Important Update

The National ACIR coverage rate excludes some children from the coverage calculation who may be up-to-date. The children excluded are those who receive their required immunisation(s) "late". This is particularly noticeable for Cohort 1 coverage, which determines the coverage rate for children in a 12–15 month age group—for immunisations required up to six months of age. Immunisations given after the child reaches twelve months of age are **excluded** from the coverage assessments.

For Cohort 1 coverage assessed at 31 March 2005, 2.8 per cent of up-to-date children were excluded from the National coverage rate which points to a trend that an increasing proportion of children are receiving immunisations more than six months after the recommended age. The higher the proportion of children receiving 'late' immunisation, potentially the lower the actual coverage rate.



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Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis Rules

The ACIR's National Due and Overdue Rules for Childhood Immunisation are provided as an explanation about how the ACIR assesses the immunisation requirements for a child, at the antigen level. While the Rules are derived from the Australian Immunisation Handbook (latest edition), clinicians should use the actual Handbook to guide decision making about immunisations.

The child's date of birth can influence the rule for an antigen. The rules for diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis are a good example. Set out below is a description of these rules based on the date of birth range.

DOB	Doses required	Rules
Born prior to 17/09/1999	5	If dose 4 is given prior to 3 years of age, dose 5 is due at 4 years. (therefore if the child has had dose 4 at 18 months, dose 5 is still required). If dose 4 is given between 3 and 4 years, dose 5 is due 12 months after dose 4. If dose 4 is given after 4 years, dose 5 is not required.
Born between 18/09/1999–30/06/2002	4 or 5	18 month dose is not required If dose 4 is given less than 42 months (3½ years) dose 5 is required at 4 years If dose 4 is given after 42 months, dose 5 is not required
Born on or after 01/07/2002	4	If dose 3 is given less than 42 months (3½ years), dose 4 is due at 4 years If dose 3 is given after 42 months, dose 4 is due 6 months after dose 3

National Due and Overdue Rules for Childhood Immunisation 2000

Children following the 1 May 2000 immunisation schedule are due for their 'pre-school' vaccinations at 4 years of age, and are considered overdue at 5 years of age. Prior to the introduction of the 1 May 2000 schedule, children were not considered overdue until 6 years of age.

Children following the 1 May 2000 schedule will be turning 5 years of age from May 2005. If these children have not received their 'pre-school' immunisations by 5 years of age, they may be considered 'Not Fully Immunised' in relation to the General Practice Immunisation Incentives scheme and for the Child Care Benefit.



National Childhood Pneumococcal Vaccination Program

New catch-up payment

A new immunisation payment will be made to immunisation providers who send details of catch-up pneumococcal vaccinations to the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR).

The new payment will be made where:

- the child is born between 1 January 2003 and 31 December 2004 (inclusive)
- the conjugate pneumococcal vaccine Prevenar has been administered between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2005, and
- the vaccination details are received by the ACIR on or before 31 March 2006.

The payment will vary from \$3.00 to \$6.00 per notification, depending on the State/Territory where the vaccine is administered. Payment will be made monthly via EFT commencing from May 2005, and will include notifications received from 1 January 2005.

Immunisation providers who send data to the ACIR via their State/Territory health department should continue to do so.

Changes to your ACIR statement of payment

To cater for this new payment, your monthly statement of payment will include a section on the summary page that displays the number of catch-up payments and the total dollar amount paid. If you receive a detailed statement, this payment will be itemised against each child for whom a Prevenar vaccination notification is received.

More information

If you have any questions about the new catch-up payment or your monthly statement, please call the ACIR enquiry line on 1800 653 809.

For more information about the National Childhood Pneumococcal Vaccination Program, please consult your State/Territory health department, or visit the Department of Health and Ageing's immunisation website at:
<http://immunise.health.gov.au/pneumococcal/>

