

Focus area

To reduce the incidence of vaccine preventable diseases in the community by providing the National Immunisation Schedule and appropriate timely information to immunisation providers and the community.

Why focus on this?

To support our General Practices in the Primary Health Network region to increase our immunisation rates, and deliver against the National Immunisation Strategy for Australia:

1. Improve immunisation coverage.
2. Ensure effective governance of the National Immunisation Program.
3. Ensure secure vaccine supply and efficient use of vaccines for the NIP.
4. Continue to enhance vaccine safety monitoring systems.
5. Maintain and ensure community confidence in the NIP through effective communication strategies.
6. Strengthen monitoring and evaluation of the NIP through assessment and analysis of immunisation register data and vaccine-preventable disease surveillance.
7. Ensure an adequately skilled immunisation workforce through promoting effective training for immunisation providers.
8. Maintain Australia's strong contribution to the region.

Quality improvement ideas

- Promote person centred care by regularly discussing immunisation during consultations with patients and parents.
- Using the General Practice Team (administration, nurses, practice manager, GPs), develop and maintain an effective reminder system for immunisation.
- Appoint a staff member who is responsible for creating and maintaining an immunisation register, add this role to their job description.
- Have a team meeting to brainstorm how immunisation reminder systems can be effective for the patient population, also discussing how these strategies could improve income generation for the practice.
- Send a reminder letter to eligible patients due for an immunisation.
- Develop and maintain high standards of cold-chain management in accordance with the National Guidelines to ensure vaccine efficacy.
- Ensure delivery of immunisation services in accordance with the National Immunisation Program and the NSW Immunisation Schedule.

Access the PHN's Quality Improvement Community of Practice, or contact your Primary Care Improvement Officer for access to the PHN's Immunisation Toolkit for additional support and information.

NOTE: there is a 'Readiness Checklist' also in the Immunisation Toolkit, refer to Page 5. The Readiness Checklist is designed as a starting point to encourage General Practice to generate ideas and strategies in childhood immunisation management that may be applied to a quality improvement activity.

Resources

- [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#)
- [RACGP Standards 5th Edition](#)
- [Following a vaccination: what to expect and what to do](#)
- [National Immunisation Strategy for Australia 2019-2014](#)
- [Australian Immunisation Register for Health Professionals](#)
- [NCIRS - Immunisation Information and Resources](#)