



Commencement of the Single Childhood Immunisation Schedule in WA

The Communicable Disease Control Directorate would like to advise you that the transition from the split immunisation schedule to a single schedule for all children in WA will begin effective 1 February 2009.

The new, unified schedule is attached. The major difference between the current split schedule and the single schedule is the use of Infanrix Hexa in lieu of the combination of PedVax-HiB and Infanrix-Penta among Indigenous children.

As of 1 February 2009 DOH no longer intends to purchase PedVax-HiB and Infanrix-Penta vaccine formulations for use in the WA childhood immunisation program.

Ideally, children who have started the infant vaccination series using the combination of PedVax-HiB and Infanrix-Penta should complete the series using these products. It is therefore acceptable to continue using the 1 April 2008 WA split immunisation schedule for Indigenous children until you no longer have enough remaining stock of Infanrix-Penta and PedVax-Hib to start and complete the series in an individual child.

In the new schedule, hepatitis A vaccine (Vaqta) and 23vPPV vaccine (Pneumovax23) are still being recommended for Indigenous children, as add-ons to the combined immunisation schedule for all children.

We also wish to advise you that DOH is in the process of finalizing multiple vaccine tender contracts. The specific vaccine brands supplied by DOH are therefore subject to future change, pending the outcome of the vaccine tender process. We will notify you of any future changes in the vaccine brands that will be available as soon as this information is available.

If you have any questions you may contact me on 08 9388 4816. Thank you for your ongoing efforts to protect our population from vaccine preventable diseases.

Sincerely,

Paul Effler, MD, MPH, FAFPHM
MEDICAL COORDINATOR
PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAM

30 January 2009