

Submission on Pharmac's Proposal for changes to funded vaccines in the National Immunisation Schedule

31 May 2019

For more information please contact:

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Introduction

1. Nelson Marlborough Health (Nelson Marlborough District Health Board) (NMH) is a key organisation involved in the health and wellbeing of the people within Te Tau Ihu. NMH appreciates the opportunity to comment on Pharmac's proposal for changes to funded vaccines in the National Immunisation Schedule.
2. NMH makes this submission in recognition of its responsibilities to improve, promote and protect the health of people and communities under the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000 and the Health Act 1956.

General Comments

3. NMH welcomes this consultation for changes to funded vaccines in the National Immunisation Schedule.

Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine (Tdap) vaccine (Boostrix)

4. Subsequent to this consultation, Pharmac has added a further consultation "Proposal to widen access to pertussis vaccine" – dated 14 May 2019. This second proposal will widen access to funded vaccines for all pregnant women at any time. NMH supports this proposal.
5. NMH supports the replacement of the ADT Booster to the Boostrix vaccines because Boostrix includes pertussis and this would mean that a higher proportion of the population would be vaccinated against pertussis.
6. NMH does not support the restrictions to tetanus boosters at 45 to individuals who have not received four tetanus vaccinations in their lifetime. It may be extremely difficult for individuals and medical staff to obtain vaccination data about individuals, especially as electronic vaccination records only date back to 2008, and electronic databases are not shared between DHBs.

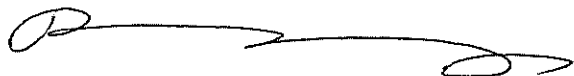
Hepatitis B recombinant vaccine (Engerix-B)

7. This vaccine is only available as 20 mcg per 1mL however this dosage would not be suited for newborns whose mothers are Hepatitis B positive. Therefore NMH recommends that a dosage suitable for newborns is included in the schedule.

Conclusion

8. NMH thanks Pharmac for the opportunity to comment on the Proposal for changes to funded vaccines in the National Immunisation Schedule.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Peter Bramley', written in a cursive style.

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