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Tēnā koe

Proposal for changes to funded vaccines in the National Immunisation Schedule

The New Zealand Nurses Organisation *Tōpūtanga Tapuhi Kaitiaki o Aotearoa* (NZNO) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the above. This submission is informed by consultation with members and staff, particularly members of our Primary Health Care and Child and Youth Colleges and with professional nursing and policy advisers.

We have had limited time to consult and our response is likely to be limited as a result. Many of our membership groups and elected committee meet no less than monthly and we would appreciate a four-week timeframe minimum to enable robust review and discussion prior to feedback.

We have, however, had correspondence with the New Zealand Immunisation Advisory Centre and some Immunisation Coordinators, many of whom are our nurse members. They have advised us they have had discussion on the proposal and provided feedback into the IMAC submission. We have reviewed their submission points and support the IMAC submission on this proposal. Specific feedback on vaccine changes is given below.

Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis vaccine

NZNO supports this change.

Hepatitis B vaccine

Administering a 1mL volume into small neonates or pre-term babies is difficult. To aid efficient administration and encourage family/whānau to return for future vaccines we recommend alternative options are sought for small or pre-term babies, including babies born to HepB positive mothers.

Varicella vaccine

NZNO supports the replacement of the currently used vaccine with Varivax with caution. With a requirement for high risk individuals under 12 months to receive an alternatively sourced vaccine available through DHB hospitals, it is possible these high risk children receive the wrong vaccine or no vaccine at all. We propose initial monitoring of vaccine uptake of the high risk children.

We note that this is the only schedule vaccine not to be administered IM, note that Medsafe recommends it is given as an injection deep under the skin and it is given IM in other countries. We suggest a review of the efficacy and level of adverse reaction between IM and SC administration.

Meningococcal C Vaccine

We note that Medsafe also recommends it is given as an injection deep under the skin.

Pneumococcal vaccine

NZNO notes the reduction of a 4-dose schedule to a 3-dose schedule. Members have mentioned that the UK is leading the way with this change and we have seen that the Pharmac PTAC Sub committee has reviewed extensive literature to support this change. NZNO supports this change but advises caution in its implementation.

Members who were not able to access the additional information and PTAC minutes queried the rationale for change. Implementation of a new dose schedule will require sufficient and appropriate information to vaccinators

Influenza vaccine

We note the inconsistent spelling of Afluria Quad throughout the proposal and recommend all

information prepared for individuals and consumers is further checked for accuracy.

We note that there is an expectation that Afluria Quad would be suitable for all ages from 6 months onwards, subject to Medsafe approval for use in children under 5 years of age. We welcome this approval process well in advance of the time for necessary production and ordering prior to the 2020 flu vaccine requirements.

We trust the above is useful, and reiterate that we support the consultation feedback from the NZ Immunisation Advisory Centre.

Nāku noa, nā



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About NZNO

NZNO is the leading professional nursing association and union for nurses in Aotearoa New Zealand. NZNO represents over 52,000 nurses, midwives, students, kaimahi hauora and health workers on professional and employment related matters. NZNO is affiliated to the International Council of Nurses and the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions.

NZNO promotes and advocates for professional excellence in nursing by providing leadership, research and education to inspire and progress the profession of nursing. NZNO represents members on employment and industrial matters and negotiates collective employment agreements. NZNO embraces te Tiriti o Waitangi and contributes to the improvement of the health status and outcomes of all peoples of Aotearoa New Zealand through influencing health, employment and social policy development enabling quality nursing care provision. NZNO's vision is *Freed to care, Proud to nurse*.