

INFORMATION SHEET – ADVERSE EVENTS FOLLOWING IMMUNISATION

Side effects following immunisation for vaccines used in the National Immunisation Program (NIP) schedule

Common adverse events following immunisation are usually mild and temporary (occurring in the first few days after vaccination, unless otherwise stated). Specific treatment is not usually required (see below).

If the adverse event following immunisation is unexpected, persistent and/or severe, or if you are worried about your or your child's condition, see your doctor or immunisation nurse as soon as possible, or go directly to a hospital. Adverse events that occur following immunisation may be reported to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) (<http://www.tga.gov.au>) or to the Adverse Medicines Events line on 1300 134 237, or discuss with your immunisation provider as to how reports are submitted in your state or territory.

Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (acellular) DTPa-containing vaccines and dTpa (reduced antigen) vaccines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Localised pain, redness and swelling at injection site Occasionally, an injection-site nodule; may last many weeks; no treatment needed Low-grade temperature (fever) In children, the following may also occur: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irritable, crying, unsettled and generally unhappy Drowsiness or tiredness 	<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b vaccine (Hib) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Localised pain, redness and swelling at injection site Occasionally, an injection-site nodule; may last many weeks; no treatment needed Low-grade temperature (fever) 	Hepatitis A vaccine (HepA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Localised pain, redness and swelling at injection site Low-grade temperature (fever) 	Hepatitis B vaccine (HepB) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Localised pain, redness and swelling at injection site Occasionally, an injection-site nodule; may last many weeks; no treatment needed Low-grade temperature (fever)
Human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Localised pain, redness and swelling at injection site Low-grade temperature (fever) Mild headache Mild nausea 	Influenza vaccine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drowsiness or tiredness Muscle aches Localised pain, redness and swelling at injection site Occasionally, an injection-site nodule; may last many weeks; no treatment needed Low-grade temperature (fever) 	Measles-mumps-rubella vaccine (MMR, MMRV – see also varicella) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occasionally, an injection-site nodule; may last many weeks; no treatment needed Seen 7–10 days after vaccination: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temperature (fever, can be >39.4°C), lasting 2–3 days, faint red rash (not infectious), head cold and/or runny nose, cough and/or puffy eyes Drowsiness or tiredness Swelling of salivary glands 	Meningococcal C conjugate vaccine (MenCCV) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irritable, crying, unsettled and generally unhappy Loss of appetite Headache (usually observed in adolescents/adults) Localised pain, redness and swelling at injection site Occasionally, an injection-site nodule; may last many weeks; no treatment needed Low-grade temperature (fever)
Pneumococcal vaccines (conjugate 13vPCV and polysaccharide 23vPPV) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Localised pain, redness and swelling at injection site Occasionally, an injection-site nodule; may last many weeks; no treatment needed Low-grade temperature (fever) 	Inactivated poliomyelitis vaccine (IPV) and IPV-containing vaccines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muscle aches Localised pain, redness and swelling at injection site Occasionally, an injection-site nodule; may last many weeks; no treatment needed Low-grade temperature (fever) 	Rotavirus vaccine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vomiting and diarrhoea can occur up to 7 days following vaccination 	Varicella vaccine (VV) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Localised pain, redness and swelling at injection site Occasionally, an injection-site nodule; may last many weeks; no treatment needed Temperature (fever, can be >39°C) Seen 5–26 days after vaccination: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pustular rash (2–5 lesions), usually at injection site, occasionally elsewhere

Key to table

DTPa	diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis acellular (infant/child formulation)	HPV	human papillomavirus vaccine	MMRV	measles-mumps-rubella-varicella vaccine
dTpa	diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis acellular (reduced antigen content formulation)	Influenza	influenza or flu vaccine	13vPCV	pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (13 serotypes)
HepA	hepatitis A vaccine	IPV	inactivated poliomyelitis vaccine	23vPPV	pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (23 serotypes)
HepB	hepatitis B vaccine	MenCCV	meningococcal C conjugate vaccine	Rotavirus	rotavirus vaccine
Hib	<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b vaccine	MMR	measles-mumps-rubella vaccine	VV	varicella vaccine

How to manage injection site discomfort	Managing fever after immunisation	Concerns
Many vaccine injections may result in soreness, redness, itching, swelling or burning at the injection site for 1 to 2 days. Paracetamol might be required to ease the discomfort. Sometimes a small, hard lump (nodule) at the injection site may persist for some weeks or months. This should not be of concern and requires no treatment.	Give extra fluids to drink. Do not overdress the baby if hot. Although routine use of paracetamol after vaccination is not recommended, if fever is present, paracetamol can be given. The dose of paracetamol for a child up to 12 years of age is 15 mg/kg/dose, every 4 to 6 hours, up to four times a day. Adults and children aged ≥12 years can receive 500 to 1000 mg every 4 to 6 hours. Paracetamol should not be given for more than 48 hours without seeking medical advice.	If you are worried about yourself or your child's condition after a vaccination, see your doctor or immunisation nurse as soon as possible, or go directly to a hospital. It is also important to seek medical advice if you or your child are unwell, as this may be due to other illness rather than because of the vaccination.