

Midwives Update Course Standards

2 hour course

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Introduction

This course has been developed to support midwives understanding and knowledge of the essential facts about immunisation to:

Enable them to provide parents/caregivers/whanau with appropriate information, and facilitate informed decision making about immunisation.

This Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC) 2 hour update course for midwives has been approved by the Midwifery Council of New Zealand and allocated one elective education point.

Resources websites

- MoH coded resources cited can be ordered from www.healthed.govt.nz
- Other MoH resources available from www.health.govt.nz
- IMAC resources cited available from www.immune.org.nz
- Medsafe datasheets available from www.medsafe.govt.nz
- CARM resources available from nzphvc.otago.ac.nz
- Brighton Collaboration resources available from www.brightoncollaboration.org
- Health and Disability Commissioner website resources available from www.hdc.org.nz
- Guidelines for nurses on administration of medicines available at www.nzno.org.nz

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This publication is intended to support education sessions provided at Vaccinator Training Courses and should be used in conjunction with other evidence based immunisation publications.

The Immunisation Advisory Centre takes no responsibility for the manner in which this information is subsequently used.

Course objective

Midwives attending this course will be able to provide evidence based information about immunisation to their clients.

Pre-requisites

- Registered midwife with current Annual Practicing Certificate (APC)
- Student midwife or a registered nurse (RN) working in maternity can attend the course and will be issued a certificate of attendance
- Pre-reading of the following chapters of the current *Immunisation Handbook*:
 - Processes for safe immunisation
 - Vaccination questions and concerns
 - Immunisations of special groups – pregnancy and lactation

Model programme

10 mins		Welcome, introduction and pre-reading discussion
30 mins	Unit 1	Vaccine preventable diseases e.g. pertussis, measles, influenza, hepatitis B, varicella.
15 mins	Unit 2	The immune system
5 mins		Break
30 mins	Unit 3	National Immunisation Schedule and immunisation coverage including recommended vaccines for health professionals
30 mins	Unit 4	Immunisation conversations
		Evaluation and close

Units may be grouped together or delivered separately depending on flexibility required for specific needs.

Unit 1: Vaccine preventable diseases

Purpose

To have an overview of the vaccine preventable diseases (VPD), their potential complications and associated risks to enable midwives to discuss with their clients.

Learning outcomes

At the end of the unit the midwife will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the:

- History of vaccination
- Epidemiology, clinical features and potential complications of each VPD
- Impact of vaccination on population health, both in New Zealand and globally

Course content should include

- Brief history of vaccines
- Global burden of disease
- VPD epidemiology
- Clinical presentation and complications of VPD, particularly:
 - Influenza in pregnant women
 - Pertussis
 - Hepatitis B
 - Tuberculosis

Unit 2: The immune system

Purpose

To provide midwives with an understanding of the immune system, and how vaccines work to protect against vaccine preventable diseases.

Learning outcomes

At the end of the unit the midwife will be able to:

- Describe and differentiate between active and passive immunity
- Discuss the immune system response to disease and vaccines, and explain why boosters are sometimes needed

Course content should include

- Components of the immune system
- Differences between active and passive immunity
- How vaccines stimulate an immune response

Unit 3: National Immunisation Schedule and immunisation coverage

Purpose

- To ensure midwives understand the vaccines available to mothers and infants, including the purpose of the timing of the schedule
- To provide midwives with information on immunisation coverage and targets and their role in achieving good coverage

Learning outcomes

At the end of the unit the midwife will be able to:

- Identify the vaccines on the current NZ National Immunisation Schedule
- Describe targeted immunisation programmes, particularly for:
 - Babies born to hepatitis B positive mothers
 - Babies at risk of tuberculosis (TB)
 - Pregnant women and infants to protect them against pertussis
 - Pregnant women to protect them against influenza
- Discuss with parents/caregivers the rationale for the timing of the vaccines on the schedule and the importance of immunisation timeliness
- Describe the management of maternal and/or neonatal exposure to varicella
- Outline the management of rubella non immune pregnant women
- Understand the rationale for immunisation health targets and be able to discuss the current NZ immunisation health targets
- Describe current local and national immunisation coverage
- Describe their responsibility for their own immune status to protect their clients

Course content should include

- The current NZ National Immunisation Schedule
- National Immunisation Schedule chart
- Information on how to access National Immunisation Schedule vaccines and hepatitis Ig
- Emphasis on the midwife's role in the special programmes i.e. hepatitis B, TB, influenza, pertussis
- The management of rubella – susceptible women
- The management of varicella exposure during pregnancy and the neonatal period
- Ministry of Health guidelines for babies born to hepatitis B positive mothers
- National immunisation targets
- Local and national immunisation coverage data
- Vaccination of health professionals in contact with pregnant women and newborns

Unit 4: Immunisation conversations

Purpose

To ensure midwives are knowledgeable of current immunisation concerns and are able to utilise evidence based resources to discuss immunisation with clients in a positive manner.

Learning outcomes

At the end of the unit the midwife will be able to:

- Describe the factors that influence parental decision making about immunisation, including the reasons that parents defer/delay immunising their children
- Source evidence based resources, as required, to assist in discussion immunisation with parents
- Obtain informed consent for appropriate immunisations

Course content should include

- *Vaccine questions and answers* chapter of the current *Immunisation Handbook*
- Sources of evidence based information/resources on immunisation, particularly:
 - www.immune.org.nz / 0800 immune
 - Myths and realities: Responding to questions about immunisation. Available from: www.health.govt.au
 - The science of immunisation questions and answers. Available from www.science.org.au