Funded vaccines for individuals pre-/post-splenectomy or with functional asplenia

One important role of the spleen is removal of polysaccharide encapsulated bacteria (bacteria that are fully covered by sugar molecules) from the blood. Individuals with a poorly functioning spleen or no spleen have a life-long risk of overwhelming infection with this kind of bacteria and death, particularly from *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (pneumococcal disease), but also *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib disease), and *Neisseria meningitidis* (meningococcal disease).

- It is recommended that infants, children, adolescents and adults with functional asplenia or who are pre/post-splenectomy are up-to-date with standard National Immunisation Schedule vaccines.
- Additional Schedule vaccines are also recommended and funded to reduce the risk of the infection with encapsulated bacteria.

Table 1 (adults aged 18 years or older), Table 2 (children aged 12 months to under 18 years), and Table 3 (infants aged under 12 months) outline the recommended timing of these important vaccines.

- It is never too late to catch-up missed most Schedule immunisations.

**Pre-/Post-splenectomy immunisation**

When splenectomy is planned, individuals would ideally complete the vaccinations they require at least 14 days prior to their surgery. If this is not possible, administer vaccines up to 14 days before splenectomy and recommence vaccination 14 days after splenectomy. When splenectomy is unexpected, for example due to trauma, commence vaccination 14 days after surgery.

**Functional asplenia immunisation**

Individuals with functional asplenia can be vaccinated as soon as the condition is identified. Offer catch-up doses of any additional vaccines as needed, and schedule precalls for administration of other additional vaccines when they fall due.

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### Key points

- Immunise on-time
- National Immunisation Schedule vaccines at 6 weeks, 3 months, 5 months, 15 months, 4 years, 11 years, 12 years for girls only, 45 years, and 65 years of age.
- Additional Schedule Hib (*Haemophilus influenzae* type b), pneumococcal, meningococcal, influenza, and Tdap vaccines (related to the person’s age).
- It is never too late to catch-up missed most Schedule immunisations.

### Table 1. Adults aged 18 years or older who are pre-/post-splenectomy or have functional asplenia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age at presentation</th>
<th>Funded vaccine (Trade name)</th>
<th>Recommended vaccine schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults aged 18 years or older</td>
<td>Hib (Act-HIB®)</td>
<td>Administer one dose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PCV13 (Prevenar 13®)</td>
<td>Administer one dose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• A minimum of 4 weeks is required between administration of PCV13 and MCV4-D</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23PPV (Pneumovax® 23)</td>
<td>If aged 18 years to under 60 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Administer 23PPV a minimum of 8 weeks after PCV13</td>
<td>Administer one dose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• If 23PPV has been administered before PCV13, wait one year to give PCV13</td>
<td>Schedule a precall for the second dose in 5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MCV4-D (Menactra®)</td>
<td>Schedule a precall for the third/final dose 5 years after second dose or at age 65 years, whichever is later</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• No MenCCV required</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• A minimum of 4 weeks is required between administration of PCV13 and MCV4-D</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Influenza (Influvac® or Fluarix®)</td>
<td>If aged 60 years or older</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Annually, during the funded Influenza Immunisation Programme</td>
<td>Administer one dose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tdap (Boostrix®)</td>
<td>If a minimum of 10 years has elapsed since receipt of a previous pertussis containing vaccine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Administer one booster dose</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Table 2. Children aged 12 months to under 18 years who are pre-/post-splenectomy or have functional asplenia

Refer to page 2

### Table 3. Infants aged under 12 months who are pre-/post-splenectomy or have functional asplenia

Refer to page 3
### Table 2. Children aged 12 months to under 18 years who are pre-/post-splenectomy or have functional asplenia

**Timing of funded Hib, pneumococcal, meningococcal, and influenza vaccines**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age at presentation</th>
<th>Funded vaccine (Trade name)</th>
<th>Recommended vaccine schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Children aged 12 months to under 18 years | Hib (Act-HIB®) | **If aged 12–15 months**  
  • Administer one dose at age 15 months  
  **If aged 16 months to under 5 years, and**  
  • They have not received a Hib containing vaccine dose since age 12 months (either Infanrix®-hexa or Act-HIB®)  
  • Administer one dose  
  **If aged 5 years to under 18 years**  
  • Administer one dose even if they received one or more Hib containing vaccine doses before age 5 years |

**PCV13 (Prevenar 13®)**  
• A minimum of 4 weeks is required between administration of PCV13 and MCV4-D  
• From age 2 years, if 23PPV has been administered before PCV13, wait one year to give PCV13

| | **If aged 12–15 months**  
  • Administer one dose at age 15 months, OR  
  • Follow an appropriate catch-up schedule if any PCV13 doses are overdue  
  **If aged 16 months to under 5 years**  
  • Follow an appropriate catch-up schedule if any PCV13 doses are overdue, OR  
  • Any child who has only received PCV7 or PCV10 (Prevenar® or Synflorix®)  
  • Administer one PCV13 dose  
  **If aged 5 years to under 18 years**  
  • Administer one dose |

| 23PPV (Pneumovax® 23) | **If aged 12 months to under 2 years**  
  • Schedule a precall for one 23PPV dose at age 2 years  
  • At age 2 years  
  • Administer one dose  
  • Schedule a precall for the second/final dose in 5 years  
  **If aged 2 years to under 18 years**  
  • Administer one dose  
  • Schedule a precall for the second/final dose in 5 years |

| MenCCV (NeisVac-C®) and/or MCV4-D (Menactra®) | **If aged 12 months to under 2 years**  
  • Administer one dose MenCCV,  
  • Schedule a precall for two MCV4-D doses at age 2 years  
  • At age 2 years  
  • Administer two doses MCV4-D 8 weeks apart  
  • Schedule a precall for a booster dose after 3 years then every 5 years  
  **If aged 2 years to under 7 years**  
  • No MenCCV required  
  • Administer two doses MCV4-D 8 weeks apart  
  • Schedule a precall for a booster dose after 3 years then every 5 years  
  **If aged 7 years to under 18 years**  
  • No MenCCV required  
  • Administer two doses MCV4-D 8 weeks apart  
  • Schedule a precall for a booster dose every 5 years |

| Influenza (Influvac® or Fluarix®) | **If aged 12 months to under 9 years, and**  
  • This is the first year they are receiving influenza vaccine  
  • Administer two age appropriate doses 4 weeks apart, OR  
  • They have previously received one or more influenza vaccines doses  
  • Administer one dose  
  **If aged 9 years to under 18 years**  
  • Administer one dose |
**Table 3. Infants aged under 12 months who are pre-/post-splenectomy or have functional asplenia**

**Timing of funded Hib, pneumococcal, meningococcal, and influenza vaccines**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age at presentation</th>
<th>Funded vaccine (Trade name)</th>
<th>Recommended vaccine schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Infants aged under 12 months | **Hib** (Infanrix®-hexa and/or Act-HIB®) | • Administer Hib (in Infanrix®-Hexa) at ages 6 weeks, 3 months, 5 months, OR
• Follow an appropriate catch-up schedule if any vaccine doses are overdue
• Administer one Hib booster dose at age 15 months |
| | **PCV13 (Prevenar 13®) and 23PPV (Pneumovax® 23)** | • Administer PCV13 at ages 6 weeks, 3 months, 5 months, OR
• Follow an appropriate catch-up schedule if any vaccine doses are overdue
• Administer one PCV13 booster dose at age 15 months
• Schedule a recall for 23PPV at age 2 years
At age 2 years
• Administer one 23PPV dose
• Schedule a recall for the second/final 23PPV dose in 5 years |
| | **MenCCV (NeisVac-C®) and MCV4-D (Menactra®)** | If aged 8 weeks to under 6 months
• Administer two doses MenCCV 8 weeks apart, and
• Schedule a recall for one MenCCV booster dose at age 12 months
• Schedule a recall for two MCV4-D doses at age 2 years
If aged 6 months to under 12 months
• Administer one MenCCV dose, and
• Schedule a recall for one MenCCV booster dose at age 12 months, at least 8 weeks after previous dose
• Schedule a recall for two MCV4-D doses at age 2 years
At age 12 months
• Administer one MenCCV booster dose
At age 2 years
• Administer two MCV4-D doses 8 weeks apart
• Schedule a recall for one MCV4-D booster dose after 3 years then every 5 years |
| | **Influenza (Influvac® or Fluarix®)** | From age 6 months
• Administer two doses 4 weeks apart in the first year receiving influenza vaccine
• In subsequent years, administer one dose |

**References**