Early administration of vaccines

The Immunisation Advisory Centre

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Early administration of vaccines is administration prior to the date they are due. The Immunisation Advisory Centre does not recommend vaccines being given earlier than their recommended dates. The scheduled spacing of doses has been developed for immunologically based reasons and early administration may compromise immunogenicity.

We recommend that immunisation precall letters and texts include the date the immunisation event is due to reduce the possibility of parents making an appointment or visiting the practice before the immunisations are actually due.

There is a small amount of flexibility with the Immunisation Schedule to allow for opportunistic immunisation, rather than ask a parent to come back another time. This flexibility is described in Table 1.

Table 1. Rules for early administration of Schedule vaccines

Immunisation event		When due	Timing flexibility
6 weeks	Infanrix®-hexa Synflorix® Rotarix®	Six weeks from the date of birth	• Can be administered a maximum of 4 days before the due date
3 months	Infanrix-hexa Synflorix Rotarix	Three calendar months from the date of birth	• Can be administered from 12 weeks of age.
5 months	Infanrix-hexa Synflorix	Five calendar months from the date of birth	• Can be administered a maximum of 4 days before the due date.
15 months	Synflorix Hiberix® Priorix® Varilrix®	15 calendar months from the date of birth	• Can be administered from 12 months of age.
4 years	Priorix Infanrix®-IPV	From the 4th birthday	• The MMR vaccine can be administered as early as 4 weeks after the first MMR dose. • The DTaP-IPV vaccine is administered from 4 years of age.
11 years	Boostrix®	Primary care: from the 11th birthday, or School-based immunisation: year 7 at school	• Can be administered to a child aged 9–10 years when the child has a tetanus-prone wound and it is 5 or more years since their last tetanus containing immunisation.
12 years	Gardasil®9	Primary care: from the 9th birthday, or School-based immunisation: year 8 at school	
45 years	ADT™ Booster	From the 45th birthday	• Given once the adult is aged 45 years.
65 years	ADT Booster	From the 65th birthday	• Given once the adult is aged 65 years.

Catch-up immunisation		• The minimum interval between administration of the same vaccine in a primary series is 28 days.
		• Some vaccines require a longer interval to allow a booster effect, for example:
		  • 8 weeks between the last two Synflorix doses,
		  • 6 months between the third Infanrix-hexa and the Infanrix-IPV booster dose,
		  • 6 months between the third Boostrix and the Boostrix booster dose.	

References

» Kroger A, Duchin J, Vazquez M. General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization. Best Practices Guidance of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) [Internet]. Atlanta: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2017. Available from: https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/downloads/general-recs.pdf.

» Ministry of Health. Immunisation handbook 2017. Wellington: Ministry of Health; 2017.