

# Midwives Continuing Education Immunisation Course Standards

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## Introduction

The Midwives Continuing Education Immunisation Course Standards set the minimum education requirements which underpin safe midwifery immunisation practice in New Zealand.

The principles of Te Tiriti O Waitangi underpin our kaupapa.

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

- Enable them to provide parents, caregivers and whānau with appropriate information, and to support informed decision making about immunisation
- Enable them to safely and effectively administer vaccines within their scope of practice

Facilitation of midwives immunisation continuing education courses will integrate best practice principles for adult learners. A range of opportunities for learning will be incorporated into each course. This will include identifying and supporting individual learning needs in order to meet the course learning outcomes.

The Midwives Immunisation Continuing Education Course is aligned with the:

- Current Ministry of Health Maternity Services Section 88 notices
- Ministry of Health [immunisation standards for vaccinators and guidelines for organizations offering immunisation services](#) in the current Immunisation Handbook
- Ministry of Health. 2017. [National Standards for Vaccine Storage and Transportation for Immunisation Providers](#). Wellington: Ministry of Health

## Midwives Immunisation Course

This one-day IMAC Midwives Immunisation Continuing Education Course has been approved by the Midwifery Council of New Zealand and contributes to continuing midwifery education (CME) hours. Midwives are expected to complete a brief reflection on their learning and how it applies to their midwifery practice. A certificate will be available following successful completion of the course.

## Resources

- Current [Immunisation Handbook](#)
- Health Promotion Agency and the Ministry - [Health Education](#) resources
- [IMAC](#) written resources
- [IMAC](#) influenza and pregnancy resources
- [IMAC](#) regional advisors and local coordinators
- [National Standards for Vaccine Storage and Transportation for Immunisation Providers 2017](#)
- [Medsafe](#) vaccine data sheets
- [PHARMAC](#) website vaccine resources
- [CARM](#) reporting form - New Zealand Pharmacovigilance Centre
- [New Zealand College of Midwives Inc.](#) Consensus Guideline: Midwife Prescribing
- [New Zealand College of Midwives Inc.](#) Consensus Statement: Immunisation

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### **Disclaimer:**

The Immunisation Advisory Centre has taken all reasonable steps to ensure that information contained is reliable and accurate; it accepts no liability or responsibility for any acts of omissions, done or omitted in reliance in whole or in part, on the information.

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

To provide midwifery participants with the scientific knowledge and skills to provide appropriate immunisation information and referrals for the pregnant woman/wahine/whanau and to administer vaccines competently within the legislation and their scope of practice

## Overall learning outcomes

At the end of the training course the midwife will be able to:

- Use current scientific knowledge and information to inform the pregnant woman/wahine about the National Immunisation Schedule and the National Immunisation Register
- Support the pregnant woman/wahine with informed decision-making about immunisation
- Adapt scientific knowledge for immunisation communication to clarify misinformation, explore options and recommend on-time vaccination of pregnant woman/wahine and baby/tamaiti
- Choose to receive appropriate vaccines themselves to protect the pregnant woman/wahine and baby/tamaiti

## Prerequisites

- Current practising certificate from registration authority (e.g. Midwifery Council or Nursing Council of New Zealand)
- A 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 current *Immunisation Handbook*
  - Introduction
  - General immunisation principles
  - Appendices 3 & 4

## Course assessment

Assessment is through evaluation of learning throughout the programme and includes a multiple-choice learning assessment and a self-reflection to take home.

## Midwives Immunisation Course - example of a programme

Time	Topic	Unit
09:00	Welcome and introduction	
09:15	Vaccine preventable diseases (VPD)	1
10:15	The maternal and child immune systems	2
<b>11:00</b>	<b>Break</b>	
11:15	Types and composition of vaccines	3
11:45	National Immunisation Schedule including vaccines in pregnancy and immunisation coverage	4
<b>12:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
13:00	Storage and handling of vaccines	
13:15	Newborn enrolment, vaccine administration and documentation	7
14:15	Immunisation communication	6
15:00	Multi-choice-question learning assessment	
15:15	Questions and answers, self-reflection, further resources	
<b>16:00</b>	<b>Close</b>	

## Unit 1: Vaccine preventable diseases

### Purpose

To provide an overview of vaccine preventable diseases, transmission, associated complications and long-term outcomes for the pregnant woman/wahine/whanau and her baby/tamaiti

### Learning outcomes

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

- Briefly describe vaccine preventable diseases (VPD) in language for those with limited health literacy
- Discuss the potential risks of vaccine preventable diseases and their complications for the pregnant woman/wahine/whanau and her baby/tamaiti to support immunisation decision-making
- Describe the impact of immunisation on maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality
- Recognise own potential role in vaccine preventable disease transmission to the pregnant woman/wahine and her baby/tamaiti and how to prevent this
- Adapt knowledge of vaccine preventable diseases for immunisation communication

### Recommended content

- Vaccine preventable diseases in New Zealand
- History of vaccines and immunisation in New Zealand and globally
- Emphasis to be placed upon vaccine preventable diseases and the vulnerability of the pregnant woman/wahine and her baby/tamaiti.
- Highlight particular diseases that the midwife has a key role in preventing: influenza, pertussis, Hepatitis B positive mother, those at risk of tuberculosis, varicella transmission and any current local outbreaks

### Resources

- Vaccine preventable diseases DVD
- [Protecting baby starts in pregnancy](#) poster code HE2504
- [Childhood Immunisations](#) booklet code HE1323
- [Immunise your children on time](#) pamphlet code HE1327
- 'Let's talk about immunisation' flip chart

## Unit 2: The maternal and infant immune systems

### Purpose

To provide an overview of the maternal and infant immune systems and how vaccines stimulate a protective immune response.

### Learning outcomes

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

- Compare active and passive immunity
- Explain the role of vaccines in pregnancy and throughout the lifespan
- Outline the woman/wahine's and infant's immune response to disease and vaccines
- Distinguish between individual and community immunity and their impact on population health

### Recommended content

- Revision of the immune system (types of immunity including active and passive immunity)
- The effects of pregnancy on the maternal immune system
- Vaccine use in pregnancy, including duration of immunity following vaccination
- Infant immune response, role of maternal antibody and breast milk
- The development of the immune system during infancy and its vulnerability during this time
- The concept of community (herd) immunity

### Resources

- Current *Immunisation Handbook*



## Unit 3: Types and composition of vaccines

### Purpose

To provide an outline of the types of vaccines, including the composition and regulation of vaccines to ensure safety.

### Learning outcomes

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

- Outline the process of vaccine regulation and surveillance
- Explain the role of Medsafe
- Locate information on vaccines from the Medsafe website
- Describe the different types of vaccines
- Identify the function of vaccine components

### Recommended content

- Overview of vaccine manufacture, licensure and regulation in New Zealand
- Medsafe role and how to access vaccine data sheets
- Features of types of vaccines (live/attenuated, killed/inactivated, toxoid and subunit; single vs. multiple antigens; combination vaccines)
- Vaccine components and rationale for their use

### Resources

- Vaccine datasheets from Medsafe website
- 'Let's talk about immunisation' flip chart
- IMAC vaccine composition activity (optional)

## Unit 4: National Immunisation Schedule, recommended occupational vaccines and immunisation coverage

### Purpose

To provide an outline of the New Zealand National Immunisation Schedule with particular focus on those vaccines ***that enhance the health of the pregnant woman/wahine and her baby/tamaiti.***

### Learning outcomes

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

- Outline the New Zealand National Immunisation Schedule for the pregnant woman/wahine/whanau during the last trimester of her pregnancy, including timing of vaccines, the rationale for on- time immunisation and for completed coverage targets at 8 months and 2 years of age
- Highlight priority funded vaccines for the pregnant woman/wahine, for those identified as susceptible to disease by antenatal screening (e.g. baby/tamaiti of a hepatitis B positive pregnant woman/wahine, post pregnancy rubella) or those at risk of tuberculosis by contact with a positive person or country of origin of both parents
- Be aware of how to access information or refer for additional funded vaccines for the pregnant woman/wahine or her baby/tamaiti at increased risk of vaccine preventable diseases
- Outline vaccines recommended for midwives to protect the pregnant woman/wahine and her baby/tamaiti

### Recommended content

- The NIS and funded vaccines for special groups
- How to access NIS vaccines and hepatitis B immunoglobulin
- Improving maternal immunisation rates
- The current New Zealand coverage statistics, the rationale for immunisation targets and the importance of timelines
- National immunisation targets for infants achieved and maintained through focused targeting of groups at risk of vaccine preventable diseases
- Emphasise the role of midwives in special immunisation and/or management programmes for maternal and/or neonatal exposure, i.e. hepatitis B, influenza, pertussis, rubella, tuberculosis

- Strategies to improve immunisation coverage for groups at risk of vaccine preventable diseases (including Māori and Pacific, deprived socioeconomic groups, migrants, mobile groups) and special groups (including pregnant women, babies of hepatitis B positive mothers)
- Emphasise the importance of health professional vaccination with consideration of the implications for premature and low birthweight infants and other vulnerable infants

### Resources

- [IMAC Schedule card](#)
- [The National Immunisation Schedule](#) card code HE1308
- [Recommended and funded vaccines during pregnancy](#) IMAC fact sheet
- [Hepatitis B: Information for Health Professionals](#) card HE1401
- [Hepatitis B: Information for Pregnant Women](#) leaflet HE1402
- [Avoid FLU during pregnancy](#) IMAC fact sheet
- [Why you should get immunized against the FLU](#) IMAC fact sheet
- [Immunise against whooping cough](#) pamphlet code HE2503
- [Rubella & Women](#) leaflet HE4172
- [BCG Vaccine: Information for Health Professionals](#) pamphlet HE2204
- [BCG Vaccine: Information for Parent - English version](#) pamphlet HE2205 (several languages)
- [Immunise against chickenpox](#) pamphlet code HE2519

## Unit 5: Storage and handling of vaccines

### Purpose

To outline the standards for the correct storage and transportation of vaccines, as they apply to midwifery practice.

### Learning outcomes

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

- Define vaccine cold chain, the key components and why vaccines must be stored in the cold chain
- Describe the role of the midwife vaccinator in the cold chain
- Access the National Standards for Vaccine Storage and Transportation for Immunisation Providers as a key reference for vaccine cold chain
- Identify the process in the event of a cold chain breach

### Recommended content

- Definition of the cold chain
- Requirements for daily vaccine refrigerator minimum/maximum temperature recordings and data interpretation
- Responsibilities in cold chain management, including vaccine transport requirements off-site for home births
- Introduce management and policies for the cold chain including National Cold Chain Audit, the Cold Chain Accreditation process and the provider cold chain policy requirement
- Discuss how and when to seek advice for issues surrounding cold chain breaches

### Resources

- [National Standards for Vaccine Storage and Transportation for Immunisation Providers 2017](#)
- [Annual Cold Chain Management Record](#) Ministry of Health resource
- [The Cold Chain: an Overview video](#)
- [The essential cold chain IMAC fact sheet](#)
- [The essential data logger IMAC fact sheet](#)

## Unit 6: Immunisation communication

### Purpose

To outline the process for informed consent for vaccination and evidence- based strategies/ resources to provide appropriate immunisation communication for women/wahine and their whanau

### Learning outcomes

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

- Describe the informed consent process and how it relates to vaccination
- Demonstrate client-centred communication when providing immunisation advice to the pregnant woman/wahine/whanau
- Offer culturally appropriate resources, translated when available

### Recommended content

- Outline the types of consent
- Confidence with tailoring immunisation conversations and recommendations (respect and cultural competency, vaccine hesitancy, delayers/objectors and addressing concerns) to ensure protection for tamariki and whānau
- Use of *Immunisation Handbook* Chapter 3 Vaccination questions and addressing concerns
- Resources for common immunisation concerns, e.g. vaccine safety, multiple injections, how vaccines work, vaccine misconceptions, natural immunity versus vaccine immunity, why vaccines are necessary
- Group discussion and/or role plays that consider the reasons parents choose to not vaccinate their children

### Resources

- [Myths and Realities: Responding to questions about immunisation](#) report, Immunise Australia Program, Australian Government 2013
- [The Science of Immunisation Questions and Answers](#) booklet, Australian Academy of Science 2016

## **Unit 7: Newborn enrolment, vaccine administration and documentation**

### **Purpose**

The midwife will be able to complete the newborn enrolment process, undertake a pre-vaccination check, and prescribe and administer vaccines and immunoglobulins safely and appropriately within the midwife's scope of practice and the relevant legislation; manage adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) and document the event in the National Immunisation Register (NIR).

### **Learning outcomes**

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

- Demonstrate safe administration of vaccines within the midwives' scope of practice and relevant legislation
- State the essential components of pre-vaccination screening actions to identify true contraindications and precautions for vaccines
- Demonstrate an understanding of safe preparation and management of vaccines
- Describe the documentation requirements for vaccine administration
- Identify the correct method for disposal of vaccines and associated equipment
- Differentiate between faint, anaphylaxis, and other hypersensitivities
- Describe identification and management of anaphylaxis, including required safety equipment
- Outline the process of reporting an adverse event following immunisation (AEFI) to the Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring (CARM)
- Refer baby/tamaiti to the National Immunisation Register and Well Child Tamariki Ora provider before six weeks of age when the midwifery partnership is concluded. Include preferred General Practice for newborn enrolment

### **Recommended content**

- Review pre-vaccination screening assessment - true contraindications and deferrals
- Preparation of vaccines, including reconstitution if required (checking of fridge temperature, expiry, vaccine type and sharps disposal, using vaccines within time frame after preparation)
- Expected responses to vaccines and what these indicate
- Identification, management and reporting of anaphylaxis (importance of accessibility and checking of equipment)

- Safety equipment required for management of anaphylaxis
- Newborn enrolment and the National Immunisation Register

#### Resources

- [Childhood Immunisations](#) booklet code HE1323
- [Immunise your children on time](#) pamphlet code HE1327
- IMAC [Anaphylaxis and vaccination](#) fact sheet
- [CARM](#) reporting form - New Zealand Pharmacovigilance Centre
- [Ministry of Health. 2014. \*Enrolling Babies at Birth: a resource for general practice\*. Wellington: Ministry of Health](#)