

## Pneumococcal vaccination for children

Prevenar 13® (a 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine) has replaced Prevenar® (a 7-valent conjugate vaccine) on the National Immunisation Program for the prevention of pneumococcal disease. Prevenar 13® provides protection against 6 additional serotypes, including serotype 19A, which is the dominant serotype responsible for invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD), including pneumonia and meningitis, in children under three years of age in recent years in Australia. Information about pneumococcal disease is available [here](#).

### Prevenar 13® routine vaccination

From 1 July 2011, Prevenar 13® is routinely recommended for all children at 2 months (or as early as 6 weeks), 4 months and 6 months of age. An additional dose is recommended for **children with underlying medical conditions** (see page 246 of the Australian Immunisation Handbook, 9<sup>th</sup> edition), at 12 months of age. These children should also receive a dose of 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine between 4 and 5 years of age.

### Prevenar 13® supplementary dose program

For a 12 month period from **1 October 2011 to 30 September 2012**, the Australian Government has announced a time-limited program to enable children aged 12-35 months who have completed a primary course of the 7-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, Prevenar®, to receive a single free supplementary dose of Prevenar 13®. **Children up to 4 years of age with underlying medical conditions** who have received a booster dose of Prevenar® at 12 months of age should also receive a supplementary dose of Prevenar 13®, to be given at least 2 months after the fourth dose of Prevenar®.

Any questions about the Program should be directed to your immunisation provider, to the Immunise Australia Program website (click [here](#)), or the Immunise Australia Program Infoline on **1800 671 811**. The Provider Guidelines for health professionals are available [here](#). Providers can order Prevenar 13® using the *General Practice Vaccine Order Form* (available [here](#))

The tables below provide guidance on transition to Prevenar 13® and eligibility for a supplementary dose for a child that commenced on Prevenar®. The first table relates to healthy children. The second table provides guidance on vaccination against pneumococcal disease for children who have an underlying medical condition.

## Pneumococcal vaccination for children

### Healthy child:

#### Transition to Prevenar 13® and eligibility for a supplementary dose

Age at first presentation since Oct 2011	Dose 1	Dose 2	Dose 3	Supplementary Dose
6 weeks to 2 months	Prevenar 13®	Prevenar 13®	Prevenar 13®	No
4 months	Previous Prevenar®	Prevenar 13®	Prevenar 13®	No
6 months	Previous Prevenar®	Previous Prevenar®	Prevenar 13®	No
12-35 months	Previous Prevenar®	Previous Prevenar®	Previous Prevenar®	Prevenar 13®

### Child with underlying medical condition\*:

#### Transition to Prevenar 13® and eligibility for a supplementary dose

Age at first presentation since Oct 2011	Dose 1	Dose 2	Dose 3	Dose 4	Supplementary dose (at least 2 months after Prevenar dose 4)	4 years of age (at least 2 months after supplementary dose)
2 months	Prevenar 13®	Prevenar 13®	Prevenar 13®	Prevenar 13®	No	Pneumovax 23®
4 months	Previous Prevenar®	Prevenar 13®	Prevenar 13®	Prevenar 13®	No	Pneumovax 23®
6 months	Previous Prevenar®	Previous Prevenar®	Prevenar 13®	Prevenar 13®	No	Pneumovax 23®
12 months	Previous Prevenar®	Previous Prevenar®	Previous Prevenar®	Prevenar 13®	No	Pneumovax 23®
1 to 4 years	Previous Prevenar®	Previous Prevenar®	Previous Prevenar®	Previous Prevenar®	Prevenar 13®	Pneumovax 23®

\* (see page 246 of the Australian Immunisation Handbook, 9th edition)