



# Useful information following vaccination

## Instructions for use

This resource is to be used in conjunction with the pre-vaccination checklist to support the informed consent process for immunisation.

Immunisation providers are encouraged to discuss:

- common and rare reactions associated with vaccination (found on the outer pages)
- reactions associated with specific vaccines (found on the inner pages).

**Note:** A highlighter can be used to emphasise specific information relevant to your client.

**Please pass this Useful information following vaccination leaflet to your client for their further reference.**

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# Useful information following vaccination

Vaccinations, like any medication may cause side effects. This fact sheet explains common reactions that may be experienced after receiving a vaccine and recommended actions to take if you are concerned.

**If you experience any other symptoms that you are concerned about, seek medical attention and advise them that you have been recently vaccinated.**

**You are requested to remain at the centre for 15 minutes following vaccination to ensure you and/or your child is within easy access of medical care in the unlikely event of a severe or rare reaction.**

Common reactions	What you can do
Most vaccines can cause mild reactions; these should be explained to you by your immunisation provider.	Side effects after vaccination are usually mild and short lasting and do not need special treatment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Local reaction (pain, redness and/or swelling around injection site)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Place a cold damp cloth (cold compress) over the affected area to give relief.</li><li>Paracetamol (not aspirin) may be used to ease the discomfort.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mild temperature or fever</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Monitor the temperature regularly (a fever is above 38.5 °C).</li><li>Extra fluids are recommended (e.g. water, milk).</li><li>Keep cool by not overdressing.</li><li>Paracetamol (not aspirin) may be used to help reduce the temperature.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Irritability, decreased appetite, sleepiness</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>These symptoms are common in children and usually disappear over 24–48 hours. It does not usually require any specific treatment.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Vomiting and diarrhoea</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Extra fluids are recommended (e.g. water, milk).</li><li>Continue to breastfeed, giving small frequent feeds.</li><li>Wash hands thoroughly after changing soiled nappies to prevent any spread.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A small lump may appear at the injection site</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No treatment is usually required and it will disappear in a few weeks.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Fainting may occur, and is usually seen in adolescents and adults</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Anyone experiencing light-headedness before or after vaccination is advised to lie down until symptoms subside.</li></ul>

First name: ..... Last name: .....

Date vaccines received: .....

Site		Disease and vaccine	Vaccine-specific side effects
Left	Right		
<input type="checkbox"/> arm <input type="checkbox"/> leg	<input type="checkbox"/> arm <input type="checkbox"/> leg	<b>Diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis containing vaccines</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Infanrix Hexa</b> (+Polio, Hib, Hep B) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Infanrix</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Tripacel</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Infanrix IPV</b> (+Polio) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Quadracel</b> (+Polio) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Adacel</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Boostrix</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See 'common reactions'</li> <li>Very rarely, large injection site reactions (&gt;50 mm) including limb swelling <b>may</b> occur (usually with the 4th or 5th dose of a tetanus containing vaccine). These reactions usually start within 24–72 hours after vaccination, and resolve spontaneously within 3–5 days. If this reaction extends beyond one or both joints, seek medical advice</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> arm <input type="checkbox"/> leg	<input type="checkbox"/> arm <input type="checkbox"/> leg	<b>Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>ACT-HIB</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Hiberix</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See 'common reactions'</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> arm <input type="checkbox"/> leg	<input type="checkbox"/> arm <input type="checkbox"/> leg	<b>Hepatitis A</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Vaqta</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See 'common reactions'</li> <li>Rash</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> arm <input type="checkbox"/> leg	<input type="checkbox"/> arm <input type="checkbox"/> leg	<b>Hepatitis B</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Engerix-B (paediatric)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Engerix-B (adult)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>HB Vax II (adult)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>HB Vax II (paediatric/adolescent)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See 'common reactions'</li> <li>Dizziness, sweating, muscle pain, insomnia and headache</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> arm <input type="checkbox"/> leg	<input type="checkbox"/> arm <input type="checkbox"/> leg	<b>Herpes Zoster (Shingles)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Zostavax</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Shingrix</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Redness, swelling, soreness or itching at the site of injection</li> <li>Headache</li> <li>Chickenpox-like blistering rash – see 'Rare reactions'</li> </ul> <p>If those vaccinated develop a rash, avoid contact with people who have impaired immunity and if they have household contacts who are susceptible they should cover their rash until the lesions have crusted.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> arm <input type="checkbox"/> leg	<input type="checkbox"/> arm <input type="checkbox"/> leg	<b>Human papillomavirus</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Gardasil 9</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See 'common reactions'</li> <li>Mild headache</li> <li>Mild nausea</li> </ul>

Site Left Right		Disease and vaccine	Vaccine-specific side effects
<input type="checkbox"/> arm	<input type="checkbox"/> arm	<b>Influenza</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Vaxigrip Tetra <input type="checkbox"/> FluQuadri <input type="checkbox"/> Afluria Quad <input type="checkbox"/> Fluarix Tetra <input type="checkbox"/> Flud Quad <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See 'common reactions'</li> <li>Drowsiness or tiredness</li> <li>Muscle aches</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> leg	<input type="checkbox"/> leg		
<input type="checkbox"/> arm	<input type="checkbox"/> arm	<b>Measles/mumps/rubella</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Priorix <input type="checkbox"/> MMR II <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See 'common reactions'</li> </ul> <b>The following reactions may occur 5–12 days after vaccination:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High fever over 39 °C lasting 2–3 days</li> <li>Faint red rash (not infectious)</li> <li>Runny nose, cough and/or puffy eyes</li> <li>Swelling of salivary glands</li> <li>Drowsiness or tiredness</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> leg	<input type="checkbox"/> leg		
<input type="checkbox"/> arm	<input type="checkbox"/> arm	<b>Measles/mumps/rubella/varicella</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Priorix-Tetra <input type="checkbox"/> ProQuad <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See 'common reactions'</li> </ul> <b>The following reactions may occur 5–12 days after vaccination:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High fever over 39 °C lasting 2–3 days</li> <li>Faint red rash (not infectious)</li> <li>Runny nose, cough and/or puffy eyes</li> <li>Swelling of salivary glands</li> <li>Drowsiness or tiredness</li> </ul> <b>The following reactions may occur 5–26 days after vaccination:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mild chickenpox-like rash (2–5 spots) usually at injection site may also appear on other parts of the body</li> </ul> <i>If those vaccinated develop a rash, they should cover the rash and avoid contact with people who have impaired immunity for the duration of the rash.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> leg	<input type="checkbox"/> leg		
<input type="checkbox"/> arm	<input type="checkbox"/> arm	<b>Meningococcal ACWY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Nimenrix <input type="checkbox"/> Menveo <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See 'common reactions'</li> <li>Rash and nausea</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> leg	<input type="checkbox"/> leg		
<input type="checkbox"/> arm	<input type="checkbox"/> arm	<b>Meningococcal B</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Bexsero <input type="checkbox"/> Trumenba <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See 'common reactions'</li> <li>High fever – To reduce likelihood/severity of high fever in children &lt;2 years, paracetamol (15 mg/kg per dose) is recommended (regardless of presence of fever). 1st dose – 30 minutes prior to vaccination (or as soon as possible afterwards) followed by 2 more doses (6 hours apart).</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> leg	<input type="checkbox"/> leg		
<input type="checkbox"/> arm	<input type="checkbox"/> arm	<b>Pneumococcal conjugated vaccine</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Prevenar 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mild temperature</li> <li>Pain at the injection site</li> <li>Redness and swelling around injection site</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> leg	<input type="checkbox"/> leg		
<input type="checkbox"/> arm	<input type="checkbox"/> arm	<b>Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Pneumovax 23 <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See 'common reactions'</li> <li>Muscle pain</li> <li>Soreness, redness and swelling at the injection site, more commonly experienced after the 2nd dose.</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> leg	<input type="checkbox"/> leg		
<input type="checkbox"/> arm	<input type="checkbox"/> arm	<b>Polio</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IPOL <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See 'common reactions'</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> leg	<input type="checkbox"/> leg		

Site Left Right	Disease and vaccine	Vaccine-specific side effects
Oral (by mouth)	<b>Rotavirus</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Rotarix <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mild temperature</li> <li>Vomiting and diarrhoea can occur up to 7 days after vaccination</li> <li>Vaccine virus can be shed in the stools, particularly after the first dose. Handwashing is important after nappy changes.</li> <li>Intussusception* – see ‘rare reactions’</li> </ul>
<div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"> <div style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">arm</div> <div style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">arm</div> <div style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">leg</div> <div style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">leg</div> </div>	<b>Varicella (chickenpox)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Varivax <input type="checkbox"/> Varilrix <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See ‘common reactions’</li> <li>High fever over 39 °C</li> </ul> <p><b>The following reactions may occur 5–26 days after vaccination:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mild chickenpox-like rash (2–5 spots) usually at injection site, may also appear on other parts of the body</li> </ul> <p><i>If those vaccinated develop a rash, they should cover the rash and avoid contact with people who have impaired immunity for the duration of the rash.</i></p>

## Rare reactions

Serious reactions are possible, but are rare.

### Anaphylaxis

- A severe allergic reaction which occurs suddenly, usually within 15 minutes, however anaphylaxis can occur within hours of vaccine administration. Early signs of anaphylaxis include: redness and/or itching of the skin, swelling (hives), breathing difficulties, persistent cough, hoarse voice and a sense of distress.

As with any medicine, there is a very remote chance of a vaccine causing a serious injury or death.

### Seizure (also known as convulsion or fit)

- Some children are more prone to seizures when experiencing a high fever. The seizure usually lasts approximately 20 seconds and very rarely more than 2 minutes.

### Intussusception\* (relates to rotavirus vaccine)

- It is an uncommon form of bowel obstruction where one segment of the bowel slides into the next, much like the pieces of a telescope.
- There is a very small risk of this occurring in a baby in the first one to seven days after receiving the first

dose of **rotavirus vaccine**, and a smaller risk after the second dose of rotavirus vaccine. The baby has bouts of crying, looks pale, gets very irritable and pulls the legs up to the abdomen because of pain.

### Chickenpox-like blistering rash (relates to shingles vaccine)

- Very rarely a generalised chickenpox-like rash following shingles vaccination may occur around 2–4 weeks after vaccination, which may be associated with being unwell/fever. This may be a sign of a serious adverse event related to the Zostavax vaccine. Seek immediate medical attention and inform of recent shingles vaccination.

### What you should do if you have a rare reaction

Seek medical advice **immediately** by either:

- calling your GP or usual health provider
- calling **healthdirect Australia** on **1800 022 222**, who will advise you on what to do next.

The advice may include:

- calling an ambulance (000) to get immediate assistance**
- seeing your family doctor (GP).

All vaccines used in Australia have been through a safety testing process then licensed by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). This is to ensure that each vaccine is safe and proven to be effective based on clinical trials. You can obtain more information about vaccines and reactions to vaccines from the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) [www.ncirs.edu.au](http://www.ncirs.edu.au) or Immunise Australia website [www.health.gov.au/immunisation](http://www.health.gov.au/immunisation)

Any serious or unexpected adverse event (reaction) following immunisation (AEFI) should be reported to the Department of Health by using the Western Australian Vaccination Safety Surveillance (WAVSS) system at [www.aefican.org.au/Home/Info/WA](http://www.aefican.org.au/Home/Info/WA) (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

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