



Reidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

National Immunisation Office
Units 8/9 Manor Street Business Park
Manor Street
Dublin 7
www.immunisation.ie

To: Each General Practitioner

October 2010

IMPORTANT NEWS

Re: NEW Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine – Prevenar 13

Dear Doctor,

This letter contains important information about the replacement of the current pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) Prevenar with Prevenar 13. Prevenar 13 contains the seven *Streptococcus pneumoniae* serotypes in Prevenar plus six additional serotypes 1, 3, 5, 6A, 7F and 19A and will provide additional coverage to children.

The National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) will shortly publish a revised chapter on pneumococcal infection to include the introduction of the thirteen strain vaccine. This chapter will be available to download from our website www.immunisation.ie.

Prevenar 13 should be given to all babies born on or after October 1st 2010

There is no change to the current childhood schedule and Prevenar 13 should be administered at 2, 6 and 12 months

Babies who have already commenced a PCV course should be given Prevenar to complete the course until all stocks of Prevenar are used up in accordance with the guidelines overleaf.

When all stocks of Prevenar are used up, children who have received doses of Prevenar may complete their course with Prevenar 13.

Actions required by you:

Please place your order for Prevenar 13 with the HSE National Cold Chain Service now so that you will receive it in your November delivery. For the next few months you will receive an allocation of both Prevenar 13 and Prevenar until all stocks of Prevenar have been distributed.

Further details may be found on www.immunisation.ie and the Summary of Product Characteristics for Prevenar 13 is available at www.imb.ie

If you require any further information or have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Kevin Kelleher
Assistant National Director Population Health – Health Protection
Medical Registration Number 19719

Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine October 2010

Description of pneumococcal conjugate vaccines		
	Prevenar	Prevenar 13
<i>S pneumoniae</i> serotypes	4, 6B, 9V, 14, 18C, 19F, 23F	4, 6B, 9V, 14, 18C, 19F, 23F and 1, 3, 5, 6A, 7F, 19A
Licence	Children aged 6 weeks to 5 years	
Presentation	Boxes of 10 doses with prefilled syringes and needles	
Syringes	Blue plunger and white tip cap	White plunger and blue tip cap
Storage	Must be stored at 2-8 ⁰ C	

Who should be given Prevenar 13?

All babies born on or after 1st October 2010 should receive a full course of Prevenar 13 and

All babies born on or after 1st January 2010 should receive one dose of Prevenar 13 as their third dose of PCV (i.e. when they are 12 months of age)

What about other babies who need PCV vaccine?

These babies should receive Prevenar until stocks of this vaccine have run out in accordance with the Table below

What about children attending late for PCV vaccination?

This child should be vaccinated as per the Table below subject to vaccine availability

Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine		
Date of Birth	Vaccine	Age
on or after 1/10/10	Prevenar 13	2, 6 and 12 months
1/1/10 - 30/9/10	Prevenar *	2, 6 months
	Prevenar 13	12 months
31/12/09 and before	Prevenar *	2, 6, and 12 months
	* use Prevenar 13 if no stock of Prevenar	

What about children in at risk groups**?

A single dose of Prevenar 13 may be given opportunistically to children under 5 years of age who are in an at risk group and who have completed a course of Prevenar

****see Immunisation guidelines 2008 for details of at risk groups**

If you become aware of any suspected adverse reactions in association with the use of Prevenar 13, please report the event to the Pfizer Drug Safety group at Pfizer Limited, Walton Oaks, Dorking Road, Walton on the Hill, Surrey KT20 7NS United Kingdom, free phone 1800 633 363 or to the Irish Medicines Board in the usual way (www.imb.ie).

For more information see www.immunisation.ie or www.imb.ie