



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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To: Each General Practitioner

### IMPORTANT NEWS

#### Re Tear Pads - Information for parents after their child has received their childhood vaccines

Dear Doctor,

Find enclosed a "Tear pad" developed by the National Immunisation Office (NIO) following consultation with healthcare professionals and qualitative research with parents. This showed parents wanted advice on what common reactions their child can get post vaccination and what to do about them.

These tear pads can be used for each of the 5 visits for the primary childhood immunisation programme.

As you are aware the NIO has recently revised the booklet "Your child's immunisation- A parent guide" which offers information on the vaccines in the childhood immunisation programme and the diseases that they prevent. As this information is very comprehensive the NIO will no longer print individual vaccine leaflets. These tear pads will replace the current individual vaccine leaflets. Additional tear pads are available to order through [www.healthpromotion.ie](http://www.healthpromotion.ie).

Vaccine uptake rates for Quarter 2 2011 have published recently by the Health Protection Surveillance Centre [www.hpsc.ie](http://www.hpsc.ie). These show that at 24 months the national uptake rates for the third dose of PCV vaccine (90%), Hib booster (87%) and third dose of Meningococcal C vaccine (83%) are below the World Health Organization target of 95%.

**PLEASE ENCOURAGE PARENTS TO BRING THEIR CHILDREN FOR BOTH THEIR 12 AND 13 MONTH VACCINES.**

Yours sincerely

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