



20 January 2017

Matthew Wolfenden
Procurement Manager
PHARMAC
Email: vaccines@pharmac.govt.nz

Re: Submission on Proposal to Amend Listings in the National Immunisation Schedule

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback on the proposal to amend listings in the National Immunisations Schedule.

Regional Public Health serves the greater Wellington region through its three district health boards (DHBs): Capital & Coast, Hutt Valley and Wairarapa, and as a service is part of the Hutt Valley District Health Board.

We work with our community to make it a healthier safer place to live. We promote good health, prevent disease, and improve the quality of life for our population, with a particular focus on children, Māori and working with primary care organisations. Our staff include a range of occupations such as: medical officers of health, public health advisors, health protection officers, public health nurses, and public health analysts.

We provide immunisation co-ordination and school based immunisation services in the greater Wellington region. Our feedback is focused on access to funded varicella vaccine.

Varicella vaccine (page 5)

We are very pleased that from 1 July 2017 varicella vaccine will be on the national schedule for children aged 15 months with a catch up dose at age 11 years for children not protected from prior varicella infection or vaccination. We are however concerned about children between these ages who have severe chronic skin conditions (e.g. eczema requiring specialist care) who have not had varicella infection or vaccination. People with eczema are particularly prone to severe infection and bacterial super infection. We understand that Starship Children's Hospital, Auckland recommend varicella vaccination to unprotected children seen through their specialist eczema outpatient clinics. We recommend inclusion of children with severe skin conditions for funded varicella vaccine.

We are happy to provide further advice or clarification on any of the points raised in our written submission. The contact point for this submission is:

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Email: Heather.Stewart@huttvalleydhb.org.nz
Tel: 04 570 9002

Kind regards

Dr Annette Nesdale
Medical Officer of Health

Peter Gush
Service Manager