

GP Talking Points – November 2020

Please distribute to all doctors and staff in your practice



The NSW Health Immunisation Unit is now providing brief updates to immunisation providers on common issues which have been raised through discussions with general practitioners and their staff during the previous month. These will be circulated monthly.

Changes to State Vaccine Centre online ordering system

Expired vaccine reporting

You will notice when you are placing your vaccine orders that there have been some changes to the State Vaccine Centre online system. These include the ability to report expired vaccines and the requirement to now add the Medicare Provider numbers of all GPs and nurse practitioners participating in the Medicare program and providing immunisations at the practice. The Medicare Provider number will have a format such as 1468Y, it is not the AHPRA number or the AIR Registration number.

Pneumococcal Vaccines and current supply

In July 2020 the National Immunisation Program and the [NSW Immunisation Schedule](#) were changed to reflect the changed eligibility for Pneumococcal Vaccines.

Information regarding these changes can be found on the [NSW Health website](#)

To ensure an equitable supply of vaccine in NSW, there are restrictions on ordering of both paediatric and adult doses of Prevenar 13. Please ensure that you are using the supply of adult vaccine only for eligible adult patients.

Zostavax – eligibility and clinical indications

Those people aged 70 – 79 years are currently eligible for free Zostavax (Shingles) vaccine. It is essential that a comprehensive medical assessment of the patient occurs prior to the consent and approval for this vaccination.

The Zostavax pre vaccination checklist can be found at [Department of Health Zostavax Screening Checklist](#).

The vaccine must not be provided to those people with compromised immune function. The TGA released an alert in July 2020 in response to concerns that the vaccine may be inadvertently given to people in this category.

<https://www.tga.gov.au/alert/zostavax-vaccine-0>

Further Information

- For information regarding immunisation issues, please visit the NSW Health website: [Immunisation Programs](#)
- Contact your local Public Health Unit on **1300 066 055**