

04 February 2022

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Tēnā koe Teresa

### **Official Information Request- OIA 14040 Transfer H202116846 Opportunistic Vaccinations**

The Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB) has received the transfer of your request from the Ministry of Health on 16 December 2021 under Section 14 of the OIA. You requested the following information:

1. A list of all district health board emergency departments that have a policy to provide COVID -19 vaccinations to unvaccinated people (COVID-19 ) who attend the emergency department
2. A list of all district health board emergency departments, paediatric departments or wards that have a policy to provide childhood immunisations to all unvaccinated children who attend the department or ward
3. What plan each district health board has to connect people or children? Currently only 84% of Māori are enrolled in primary care (PHO)."

#### **The Whanganui District Health Board response:**

- 1. Does Whanganui District Health Board emergency department have a policy to provide COVID -19 vaccinations to unvaccinated people (COVID-19 ) who attend the emergency department?**

No, currently WDHB does not have a policy. We note that COVID vaccinations should not be given to people who are unwell and therefore vaccination of people attending emergency department would not be appropriate.

- 2. Does Whanganui District Health Board emergency department, or paediatric ward have a policy to provide childhood immunisations to all unvaccinated children who attend the department or ward?**

Yes, the Whanganui DHB has a policy to provide childhood immunisations with the Paediatric Unit and in the Emergency Department.

See **Appendix 1.** Immunisation Procedure Within the Paediatric Unit and **Appendix 2.** Opportunistic Immunisations in the Emergency Department.

- 3. What plan does the Whanganui District Health Board have to connect people or children? Currently only 84% of Māori are enrolled in primary care (PHO).**

- Information on GPs is available at Whanganui Accident & Medical (WAM)/ED reception, and the WDHB website home page has information on finding a GP / midwife.
- Social workers look at non-enrolled population and help to enrol.
- For non-enrolled babies: The National Immunisation Register (NIR) coordinator logs nominated GPs from the newborn enrolment form. For any babies who have not nominated a

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GP at birth, a referral is sent to Whanganui Regional Health Network PHO (WRHN) who has a kaiāwhina who will assist whānau to engage with a GP.

- For non-enrolled older children or adults: They are usually referred to WRHN via WAM/Paediatric Ward and they have kaiāwhina who will work with whānau to enrol with a GP.
- WRHN is contracted to provide immunisation outreach services and to receive referrals from all GPs and hospital services.
- WRHN provides cold chain and immunisation coordination services.
- Iwi Māori provider organisations (five providers, rural and urban) work with whānau as part of their Whānau Ora service provision and Tamariki Ora services to provide and support enrolment and immunisations.
- The newly established Kaupapa Māori Iwi provides vaccination service across the Whanganui DHB region; this is a joint Iwi provider response which is expanding on the success of the 20/21 flu vaccination efforts and COVID-19 response
- Te Ranga Tupua has been funded through Te Puni Kōkiri to support Māori COVID vaccination. While not a DHB service, Whanganui District Health Board is supporting this service.

Should you have any further queries about the above information, please contact our OIA co-ordinator Anne Phoenix at [anne.phoenix@wdhb.org.nz](mailto:anne.phoenix@wdhb.org.nz)

Ngā mihi



**Graham Dyer**

Kaihautū Hauora – Acting Chief Executive  
Whanganui District Health Board

## Appendix 1. Immunisation Procedure Within the Paediatric Unit

### Procedure



Immunisation Procedure Within The Paediatric Unit	
<b>Applicable to:</b> Whanganui District Health Board	<b>Authorised by:</b> Clinical nurse manager, Paediatrics
	<b>Contact person:</b> Clinical nurse manager, Paediatrics

#### 1. Purpose

The Paediatric Unit of Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB) is committed to promoting the Immunisation Programme as set out by the Ministry of Health.

#### 2. Scope

Patients, registered vaccination staff, paediatricians, lead consultants.

#### 3. Roles and responsibilities

All nursing staff will identify the immunisation status of their patients through direct questioning of the families and through checking the National Immunisation Register (NIR). This is performed daily through the NIR office (Whanganui) with the results rung through in the morning.

The Lead Consultant needs to agree to the vaccination and the family must provide verbal informed consent.

This is documented in the patient's notes

#### 4. Prerequisite

A registered nurse who has attended an approved immunisation programme.

#### 5. Health and safety

The Registered Nurse is responsible for ensuring the correct medication is administered according to the five rights

#### 6. Equipment/resources required

Pharmacy dispenses charted vaccines in-hours

All vaccines are obtainable from the vaccine after-hours fridge out of usual working hours



## **7. Procedure**

Verbal consent is obtained from the family by the vaccinator and is to be recorded in the patient's notes. Verbal consent is obtained from the lead consultant and is also recorded in the patient's notes.

The catch-up schedule is charted and faxed to Pharmacy or collected from the after-hours fridge. Cold chain practices are to be maintained. Aseptic techniques will be used in the preparation of the vaccine.

The vaccine is double checked by another registered nurse or paediatrician and signed for on the medication chart. The vaccine is given in a safe and effective manner ensuring the five rights are maintained.

- Right Dose
- Right Route
- Right Patient
- Right Drug
- Right Site

Consider the prophylactic use of sucrose for the under 12 month old patient if not receiving RotaTeq vaccine.

The Patient will be observed for a minimum of 20 minutes post vaccination. The vaccinator is to provide written and verbal discharge management information including expected responses and afterhours medical advice contacts to the patients family/whanau .This is to be recorded in the patients notes

Complete the NIR forms and send to the NIR office with a copy filed in the patient's notes. The paediatric discharge summary given to the Lead Primary care provider is to include any vaccinations given. Complete the Health and Development book if available. All this information is to be recorded in the patient's notes.

## **8. Measurement criteria**

The WDHB is to attain the Ministry of Health immunisation targets for the region.

## **9. Definitions**

NIR - National Immunisation Register

Vaccination - The giving of a scheduled vaccine to an eligible patient through the prescribed manner

## **10. References**

Ministry of Health (MOH) Immunisation Handbook 2014

## **11. Key words**

Vaccination, immunisation, IM Injections, NIR

## Appendix 2. Opportunistic Immunisations in the Emergency Department



### Procedure

Opportunistic Immunisations in the Emergency Department	
<b>Applicable to:</b> Whanganui District Health Board	<b>Authorised by:</b> CNM Paediatrics
	<b>Contact person:</b> CNM Paediatrics

#### 1. Purpose

That all children presenting to the Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB) emergency department will have their immunisation status reviewed and be offered the opportunity to receive opportunistic immunisations as appropriate

#### 2. Scope

This procedure applies to all Whanganui District Health Board employees (permanent, temporary and casual), visiting medical officers, and other partners in care, contractors, consultants and volunteers.

#### 3. Prerequisites

Authorised vaccinators are to educate families on immunisation and administer same

#### 4. Definitions

**Caregiver** - Legal guardian of the child

**NIR** - National immunisation register

**Vaccination** - Administration of a scheduled vaccine to an eligible patient in a safe manner

**Vaccinator** - A registered nurse who has attended and passed an approved immunisation programme within New Zealand

#### 5. Procedure

Verbal consent will be obtained from the caregiver by the vaccinator. This is to be recorded in the patient's health record.

Verbal consent will be obtained from the lead consultant. This is to be recorded in the patient's health record.

The catch up schedule will be charted and faxed to the pharmacy or collected from the afterhours fridge; cold chain practices will be maintained.

Aseptic techniques will be used in the preparation of the vaccine.

The vaccine will be double checked by another registered nurse or doctor and double signed on the patient's medication chart.

The vaccine will be given in a safe and effective manner ensuring the five rights are maintained:

1. Right dose
2. Right route
3. Right patient
4. Right drug
5. Right site

The patient will be observed for a minimum of 20 minutes post vaccination.

The vaccinator will provide written and verbal discharge management information including expected responses and after hours medical advice contacts.

The vaccinator will complete the NIR forms and send to the NIR office with a copy for the patient's notes.

The medical discharge summary to the lead primary carer will include any vaccinations given.

The vaccinator will complete the Health and Development/Well Child book if available.

All the above information is to be recorded in the patient's health record.

## **6. Roles and responsibilities**

All staff will identify the immunisation status of all children presenting to the emergency department through direct questioning and review of their status on the NIR

The lead medical consultant will consent to the immunisation event

The caregiver will need to provide informed verbal consent

The vaccination will be given by a trained vaccinator

The vaccinator is responsible for ensuring the correct medication is administered according to the five rights of medication administration

## **7. Measurement criteria**

The WDHB achieves the Ministry of Health immunisation targets for the region.

## **8. References**

Ministry of Health (MOH) Immunisation Handbook 2014

## **9. Related Whanganui District Health Board documents**

" Vaccination within the paediatric unit"  
Cold Chain procedure

## **10. Key words**

Vaccination immunisation