



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

Dear Colleague

Prevenar 13[®] program providing a supplementary dose

I am writing to provide you with advice about a time-limited one year pneumococcal program on the National Immunisation Program providing a single supplementary dose of a 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (13vPCV, Prevenar 13[®]) for children aged between 12 months and 35 months who have completed primary vaccination with the 7-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (7vPCV, Prevenar[®]). This time-limited program will begin on 1 October 2011 and end on 30 September 2012. Children must be between 12 months and 35 months of age on the day of vaccination to be eligible. The program does not include children who have already received one or more doses of 13vPCV or 10-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (10vPCV, Synflorix[®]).

The parents/carers of children eligible for the program will receive a letter from the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register advising them of their child/ren's eligibility for the time-limited program. A copy of this letter is enclosed for your information.

Compared to 7vPCV, 13vPCV provides protection against an additional six serotypes, which can cause Invasive Pneumococcal Disease (IPD), that were not previously covered by 7vPCV. This includes disease associated with the increasingly predominant serotype 19A.

In July 2010 the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) made a recommendation for the use of the Pfizer Australia 13vPCV (Prevenar 13[®]), in the same circumstances under which the 7vPCV (Prevenar[®]) was used under the National Immunisation Program. In November 2010, PBAC recommended an extension of the recommended listing for 13vPCV so that a single supplementary dose of 13vPCV be provided for children aged between 12 months and 35 months who have completed primary vaccination with 7vPCV.

More information about Prevenar 13[®] can be found in the enclosed Provider Guidelines or visit the Immunise Australia Program website at: www.immunise.health.gov.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C J Baggoley'.

Professor Chris Baggoley
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Australian Government Chief Medical Officer
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