



THE NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PNEUMOCOCCAL & INFLUENZA IMMUNISATION (NIPII) PROGRAM

Dear Doctor/Practice Manager,

The materials contained in this package provide medical practitioners with information about the 2004 National Indigenous Pneumococcal and Influenza Immunisation Program. Would you please ensure all members of your practice see these important materials.

Copies of these materials can also be found on the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Health internet site at: www.health.gov.au/oatsih/pubs/immune.htm

If anyone would like more copies of the posters, they can contact the Immunisation Hotline on 1800 671 811.



THE NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PNEUMOCOCCAL & INFLUENZA IMMUNISATION (NIPII) PROGRAM

GENERAL PRACTITIONER FACT SHEET

Funded by the Australian Government, this program provides pneumococcal and influenza vaccines to all Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people who are at high risk.

Doctors play an important role in reducing the high incidence of mortality and morbidity associated with influenza and other respiratory diseases in Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities.

You can help by:

- asking all patients at the beginning of the consultation whether they identify as an Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander person. This provides an opportunity to discuss their individual risks and inform them about vaccine availability;
- ensuring eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people receive their influenza vaccine every year and pneumococcal vaccine as required;
- displaying the NIPII Program poster in your practice.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR VACCINE?

Pneumococcal vaccine: All Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 and over.

Influenza vaccine: All Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 and over

And; those aged 15 - 49 who are at high risk because they:

- have heart disease, kidney disease, lung disease, severe asthma or diabetes; or
- have an immune-compromising condition such as HIV infection or cancer.

Note that tobacco smoking is now an indication for adult pneumococcal vaccination (as recommended in the 8th edition of the *Australian Immunisation Handbook*). **Note:** pregnant women who will be in their 2nd or 3rd trimester in the influenza season should be given influenza vaccine **only**.

WHEN SHOULD PEOPLE GET THEIR VACCINATIONS?

Flu: Repeat vaccinations are due every year, in February/March/April.

Pneumo: 15-49 years of age: revaccination 5 years after first dose, then again at 50 years or 10 years after 2nd dose whichever is the later.
50 years and older: a single revaccination 5 years after 1st dose.

Both vaccines can be given at the same time, in different arms.

For the latest information on vaccine recommendations and contraindications, see the current *Australian Immunisation Handbook*, available from the immunisation infoline - 1800 671 811, or visit the Immunise Australia website at <http://immunise.health.gov.au/>

The Northern Territory Department of Health and Community Services supplies vaccines to providers through the same mechanism as for childhood vaccines. Please order your vaccine from your regional hospital pharmacy. Please note that influenza and pneumococcal vaccines for Indigenous people should not be accessed from private pharmacies via Section 100 funding.

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