

13 November 2013

Therapeutic Group Manager  
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### **Proposal to amend listings in the National Immunisation Schedule**

Dear Sir/Madam

The New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) wishes to provide feedback to PHARMAC on proposals to amend listings in the National Immunisation Schedule.

We understand that the proposals would see the following new vaccines listed on the National Immunisation Schedule from 1 July 2014: rotavirus vaccine (for all eligible patients); varicella vaccine (for patients at high risk from infection); hepatitis A vaccine (for eligible patients); a higher strength hepatitis B vaccine for the vaccination of dialysis patients and patients who have had a liver or kidney transplant; and a monovalent conjugated meningococcal C vaccine. We also understand that the eligibility age for funding for HPV vaccine for females would be changed to 'up to 18 years' and funded access to vaccines would be amended to allow revaccination of children following significant immunosuppression.

The NZMA has long advocated for expanding the National Immunisation Schedule and we strongly support PHARMAC's proposals to add these new vaccines to the schedule and widen access to existing vaccines on the schedule. We note that the proposals follow advice from the expert immunisation subcommittee and PTAC. We agree that New Zealanders would have added protection from infections in the community if the proposals were implemented.

We hope our feedback on these proposals is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Dr Mark Peterson  
NZMA Chair