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Dear Doctor/Vaccine Service Provider

### **Information on the Prevenar 13<sup>®</sup> Supplementary Dose Program**

The Australian Government is providing a free supplementary dose of Prevenar 13<sup>®</sup> to all children aged between 12 and 35 months (inclusive) who have been previously vaccinated with Prevenar<sup>®</sup>.

The program will commence on 1 October 2011 and ends 30 September 2012.

Prevenar 13<sup>®</sup> contains 13 serotypes, including 19A.

Australia is now experiencing an increase in the serotypes of invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) not covered by Prevenar<sup>®</sup>, with serotype 19A emerging as the leading cause of IPD in Australia for children under 2 years of age.

The supplementary dose of Prevenar 13<sup>®</sup> for children not previously vaccinated with Prevenar 13<sup>®</sup> will provide protection against the additional 6 pneumococcal serotypes not contained in Prevenar<sup>®</sup>.

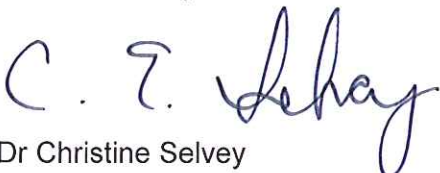
Attached is a summary of key points and an eligibility table to support your practice staff in implementing this important program.

The Australian Government will also be providing guidelines on eligibility requirements for the program. These will be forwarded in the next couple of weeks.

Vaccine for the supplementary dose program is available through the usual vaccine ordering system.

If you have further queries regarding the program please refer to your local Public Health Unit.

Yours sincerely



Dr Christine Selvey  
**Senior Director, Communicable Diseases Branch**

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# Queensland Health Immunisation Program

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## Supplementary dose of Prevenar 13<sup>®</sup>

### All children

- In addition to the recent change from Prevenar<sup>®</sup> to Prevenar 13<sup>®</sup> for infants aged 2, 4 and 6 months of age, a free supplementary dose of Prevenar 13<sup>®</sup> is available for children aged between 12 and 35 months (inclusive) in a time limited program from 1 October 2011 to 30 September 2012. These children are eligible if they have not previously received a dose of Prevenar 13<sup>®</sup>.
- Any child who has previously been vaccinated with Prevenar<sup>®</sup> and is aged between 12 and 35 months (inclusive) at the time of vaccination is eligible to receive one dose of Prevenar 13<sup>®</sup>.
- Prevenar 13<sup>®</sup> protects against 6 additional serotypes not previously covered by Prevenar<sup>®</sup>, including serotype 19A which is becoming increasingly predominant in Queensland.
- Prevenar 13<sup>®</sup> is based on the same technology as Prevenar<sup>®</sup> and in clinical studies had a similar safety profile. Receiving an additional dose of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine should not increase the risk of adverse reactions.
- A single dose of Prevenar 13<sup>®</sup> for children aged between 12 and 35 months (inclusive) is expected to provide the same protection against the six additional serotypes as a primary series vaccination with Prevenar 13<sup>®</sup>. The supplementary program will accelerate the herd effect of Prevenar 13<sup>®</sup> by more rapidly increasing childhood population immunity.
- Children over 3 years of age are less susceptible to Invasive Pneumococcal Disease (IPD) than younger children. If parents wish to vaccinate children 36 months or older (but under 5 years) they can purchase vaccine with private prescription.
- Prevenar 13<sup>®</sup> may be given at the same time as other vaccines. There may be a small increased risk of fever/febrile convulsions with the co-administration of trivalent influenza and pneumococcal conjugate vaccines in children 12 to 35 months of age. The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) advice is that these vaccines may be given together and that providers discuss this risk with parents prior to administration of Prevenar 13<sup>®</sup>; if there are strong parental concerns, these vaccines may be given separately using an interval of at least 3 days between each vaccine.

Note: The supplementary dose of Prevenar 13<sup>®</sup> should be recorded in the usual way i.e. on the *Vaccination Record Form* or your practice/clinic immunisation software.

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

- The booster dose of pneumococcal vaccine (Pneumovax 23<sup>®</sup>) given to Queensland children at 24 months of age should be replaced with Prevenar 13<sup>®</sup>. These children do not require Pneumovax 23<sup>®</sup>.
- If a child under 36 months of age has already been vaccinated with Pneumovax 23<sup>®</sup>, then a supplementary dose of Prevenar 13<sup>®</sup> should be given at least 8 weeks after Pneumovax 23<sup>®</sup> was administered. Prevenar 13<sup>®</sup> will provide protection against serotype 6A that is not included in Pneumovax23<sup>®</sup>.

Note: If a child is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander AND has underlying medical conditions predisposing them to IPD please refer to the "Medical at Risk" children information below.

### Medical at Risk children

- The current recommended schedule for **all** children with underlying medical conditions predisposing them to IPD (as per the current immunisation handbook) is an additional dose of Prevenar 13<sup>®</sup> at 12 months of age and a dose of Pneumovax 23<sup>®</sup> between 4 and 5 years of age, or at least 8 weeks after the last Prevenar 13<sup>®</sup> (whichever is later).
- ATAGI recommends a supplementary dose of Prevenar 13<sup>®</sup> up to 4 years of age for children with underlying medical conditions predisposing them to IPD, even if the child has already received an additional dose of Prevenar<sup>®</sup> at 12 months.

More information is available at [www.immunise.health.gov.au](http://www.immunise.health.gov.au) or from your local Public Health Unit.

# Prevenar 13<sup>®</sup> Supplementary Dose Tables

valid 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012 only

## 1. Standard schedule

Current age of child	Vaccination history	Supplementary dose
12 to 35 months (inclusive)	Previously vaccinated with Prevenar <sup>®</sup>	Give Prevenar 13 <sup>®</sup> at least 8 weeks after last dose of Prevenar <sup>®</sup>

## 2. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) children

(a) Child has no history of Pneumovax 23 <sup>®</sup> vaccination		
Current age of child	Vaccination history	Supplementary dose
12 to 35 months (inclusive)	Previously vaccinated with Prevenar <sup>®</sup>	Give Prevenar 13 <sup>®</sup> at least 8 weeks after last dose of Prevenar <sup>®</sup>
(b) Child has already received Pneumovax 23 <sup>®</sup> vaccination		
Current age of child	Vaccination history	Supplementary dose
12 to 35 months (inclusive)	Previously vaccinated with Pneumovax 23 <sup>®</sup> AND Prevenar 23 <sup>®</sup>	Give Prevenar 13 <sup>®</sup> at least 8 weeks after Pneumovax 23 <sup>®</sup> was given

3. Medical at Risk children* (including children who are both Indigenous AND Medical at Risk)			
Current age of child	Vaccination history	Supplementary dose	Pneumovax 23 <sup>®</sup>
12 to 47 months (inclusive)	Previously vaccinated with Prevenar <sup>®</sup>	Give Prevenar 13 <sup>®</sup> at least 8 weeks after last dose of Prevenar <sup>®</sup>	Give at 4-5 years of age <b>OR</b> 8 weeks after last dose of Prevenar 13 <sup>®</sup> (whichever is later)

\*Refer to The Australian Immunisation Handbook (page 246) for details of medical conditions predisposing children to IPD.



**Queensland**  
Government

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**I M M U N I S E**  
AUSTRALIA PROGRAM  
An Australian, State and Territory  
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