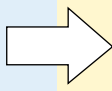


Changed immunisation schedule from 1 March 2008

Due to a manufacturing problem in the USA, CSL/Merck have advised that **Comvax[®] and Pedvax[®] vaccines will be out of stock** from March until late 2008. Comvax[®] is a combination of *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) and hepatitis B vaccine. Pedvax[®] is *Haemophilus influenzae* type b vaccine (mainly given to children less than five years of age who have either never received a Hib containing vaccine or have an incomplete Hib schedule).

Victoria will change the childhood immunisation schedule from 1 March 2008 for all babies and children due for their 2, 4, and 6 month old vaccines. As Comvax stock ends the 12 month old schedule will also be altered.

New schedule from 1 March 2008		New schedule from 1 March 2008 if a child had 3 doses of Infanrix IPV [®]	New schedule from 1 March 2008 if a child had 3 doses of Infanrix IPV [®]
Age of child	Vaccines required	Comvax [®] available	Comvax [®] stock ended
Birth	HB VaxII Paediatric [®]	HB VaxII Paediatric [®]	
2 months	RotaTeq [®] Infanrix <i>hexa</i> [®] Prevenar [®]	RotaTeq [®] Infanrix IPV [®] Prevenar [®] Comvax [®]	
4 months	RotaTeq [®] Infanrix <i>hexa</i> [®] Prevenar [®]	RotaTeq [®] Infanrix IPV [®] Prevenar [®] Comvax [®]	
6 months	RotaTeq [®] Infanrix <i>hexa</i> [®] Prevenar [®]	RotaTeq [®] Infanrix IPV [®] Prevenar [®]	
12 months	Priorix [®] NeisVac C [®] Hiberix [®]	Priorix [®] NeisVac C [®] Comvax [®]	 Priorix [®] NeisVac C [®] Hiberix [®] HB VaxII Paed. [®]
18 months	Varilrix [®]	Varilrix [®]	Varilrix [®]
4 years	Priorix [®] Infanrix IPV [®]	Priorix [®] Infanrix IPV [®]	Priorix [®] Infanrix IPV [®]

The when, who, what, how and where of the schedule changes

When are the schedule changes?

- The changes commence from 1 March 2008

Who is affected by the schedule changes?

- Babies due for their two, four and six month old (the primary schedule) vaccines
- Babies who have started the primary schedule with Infanrix IPV and require either the four and/or six month old doses
- Babies due for their 12 month old schedule of vaccines who had Infanrix *hexa* as all or part of the primary schedule
- Children less than five years of age needing catch-up doses of the two, four and six month old vaccines in the primary schedule.

What are the schedule changes?

- Infanrix-IPV is replaced by Infanrix *hexa* (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, hepatitis B and Hib) for the primary schedule
- Babies who had Infanrix *hexa* as all or part of the primary schedule and are due for their 12 month old vaccines will be given Hiberix (Hib)
- **Only** use Comvax (until stock ends) at the 12 month old schedule point for those who received Infanrix-IPV at two, four and six months and Comvax at two and four months
- When there is no Comvax left for babies at 12 months of age - give babies, who have **only** received Infanrix-IPV at two, four and six months and Comvax at two and four months, separate doses of Hiberix vaccine and HB VaxII Paediatric (hepatitis B paediatric) vaccine
- Overdue children aged 15 months to less than five years, a primary schedule - give the first dose as Infanrix *hexa* and subsequent doses as Infanrix IPV plus HB VaxII Paediatric.

How do the changes affect the schedule?

- Infanrix-IPV (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and inactivated polio) is replaced by Infanrix *hexa* (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, hepatitis B, inactivated polio and Hib) therefore two extra antigens (hepatitis B and Hib) are combined into one vaccine given in the primary schedule
- One less injection is given in the primary schedule at two and four months
- Infanrix *hexa* given as dose three (due at six months) in the primary schedule provides the final dose of hepatitis B antigen to complete the hepatitis B course
- Babies who have had Infanrix *hexa* at six months and are due for their 12 month old vaccines - give Hiberix (dose four of Hib antigen)
- When Comvax supply has ceased - give babies at the 12 month schedule, who had Infanrix IPV for the primary schedule, separate doses of Hiberix and HB VaxII Paediatric as well as Priorix and NeisVac C
- Overdue children aged 15 months to less than five years of age, **commencing** a primary schedule - give Infanrix *hexa* as the first dose. This age group only require a single dose of the Hib antigen. The primary schedule is completed with two further doses of Infanrix IPV and HB VaxII Paediatric vaccine as per the recommended catch-up schedule.

Where is the schedule unchanged?

- Varilrix is unchanged at 18 months of age
- Infanrix-IPV is unchanged at four years of age.