

Parent Advice Sheet

The following information can be photocopied and given to parents as post-vaccination advice.

All the common adverse events following immunisation are usually mild and transient and treatment is not usually required. If the adverse event following immunisation is severe or persistent, or if you are worried about yourself or your child's condition, see your doctor or immunisation clinic nurse as soon as possible or go to a hospital.

Commonly observed adverse events (conditions) following specific vaccines used in the Australian Standard Vaccination Schedule (ASVS)		
VZV	MMR	MenCCV
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Localized pain, redness & swelling at injection site Occasionally injection site nodule – may last many weeks (no treatment needed) Low grade temperature (fever) <p>Seen 5-26 days after vaccination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pustular rash (2-5 lesions) usually at injection site which occasional covers other parts of the body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occasionally injection site nodule – may last many weeks (no treatment needed) <p>Seen 7 to 10 days after vaccination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low grade temperature (fever) lasting 2-3 days, faint red rash (not infectious), head cold and/or runny nose, cough and/or puffy eyes Drowsiness or tiredness Swelling of salivary glands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irritable, crying, unsettled and generally unhappy Loss of appetite Headache (usually observed in adolescent/adults) Localized pain, redness & swelling at injection site Occasionally injection site nodule – may last many weeks (no treatment needed) Low grade temperature (fever)
DTPa-containing vaccines & dTpa	Influenza	IPV & IPV-containing vaccines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irritable, crying, unsettled and generally unhappy Drowsiness or tiredness Localized pain, redness & swelling at injection site Occasionally injection site nodule – may last many weeks (no treatment needed) Low grade temperature (fever) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drowsiness or tiredness Muscle aches Localized pain, redness & swelling at injection site Occasionally injection site nodule – may last many weeks (no treatment needed) Low grade temperature (fever) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muscle aches Localized pain, redness & swelling at injection site Occasionally injection site nodule – may last many weeks (no treatment needed) Low grade temperature (fever)
HepB	Hib	23vPPV
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Localized pain, redness & swelling at injection site Occasionally injection site nodule – may last many weeks (no treatment needed) Low grade temperature (fever) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Localized pain, redness & swelling at injection site Occasionally injection site nodule – may last many weeks (no treatment needed) Low grade temperature (fever) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Localized pain, redness & swelling at injection site Occasionally injection site nodule – may last many weeks (no treatment needed) Low grade temperature (fever)

7vPCV	OPV	dT (ADT)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Localized pain, redness & swelling at injection site Occasionally injection site nodule – may last many weeks (no treatment needed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occasional diarrhoea (no treatment usually needed but parent or carer must wash hands carefully after changing nappies) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low grade temperature (fever) Localized pain, redness & swelling at injection site Occasionally injection site nodule – may last many weeks (no treatment needed)

Key to table:

DTPa	Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (acellular) infant/child formulation
DTpa	Adult/adolescent formulation diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (acellular) vaccine
DT or ADT	Adult diphtheria-tetanus vaccine
HepB	hepatitis B vaccine
Hib	Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) vaccine PRP-OMP, PRP-T, HbOC (as monovalent or in combination)
Influenza	Influenza vaccine
IPV	Inactivated poliomyelitis vaccine (usually in combination with other vaccine and given as injection)
7vPCV	7-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine
23vPPV	23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine
MenCCV	Meningococcal C conjugate vaccine
MMR	measles-mumps-rubella vaccine
OPV	oral poliomyelitis vaccine
VZV	varicella-zoster vaccine (both Varivax Refrigerated and Varilrix, unless stated otherwise)

What to do to manage injection site discomfort

Many vaccine injections may result in soreness, redness, itching, swelling or burning at the injection site for 1 to 2 days. Paracetamol might be required to ease the discomfort. Sometimes a small, hard lump may persist for some weeks or months. This should not be of concern and requires no treatment.

Managing fever after immunisation

Give extra fluids to drink. Do not overdress the baby if hot. Although the routine use of paracetamol at the time of vaccination is no longer necessary, it may be required if, for example, an infant or child has a high fever following vaccination. The dose of paracetamol is 15 mg/kg of paracetamol liquid, up to a maximum daily dose of 90 mg/kg/day.

Reference: see Part 1.6, 'Adverse events following immunisation (AEFI)' for more information.