

Consensus Statement: **Immunisation**

The New Zealand College of Midwives recognises the National Immunisation Programme as a public health strategy.

Rationale:

Immunity to infection occurs when a person is exposed to a live pathogen and develops the disease and antibodies to the disease so is no longer susceptible (active immunity). Passive immunity occurs following vaccination with a vaccine. The vaccine stimulates a primary response without causing symptoms of the disease ¹.

Practice Notes:

- The underlying principle of informed choice and consent must always be upheld in discussion with clients, prior to the administration of vaccines and in the management of the Immunisation Programme.
- Free vaccinations are available in New Zealand for all children under 16 years of age.
- In addition free vaccination is available for pregnant women for influenza and whooping cough.
- The National Immunisation Register is a computerised information system that has been developed to hold immunisation details of New Zealand children.

References:

Pairman, S., et al., eds. *Midwifery: Preparation for Practice 3e*. 3 ed. 2015, Elsevier: Sydney.

Bibliography:

Immunisation Advisory Resource Centre
<http://www.immune.org.nz/> (accessed April, 2016)

Immunisation New Zealand
Ministry of Health
<https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/healthy-living/immunisation> (accessed April 2016)

The National Immunisation Schedule
Ministry of Health
<https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/healthy-living/immunisation> (accessed April 2016)

Ratification:

This statement was originally ratified at the NZCOM AGM 25 August 1995
References updated 2001, 2004, 2009
Reviewed and updated August 2016

The purpose of New Zealand College of Midwives Consensus Statements is to provide women, midwives and the maternity services with the profession's position on any given situation. The guidelines are designed to educate and support best practice. All position statements are regularly reviewed and updated in line with evidence-based practice.