

immunisation



Pre-Vaccination Screening in General Practice

- Immunisation service providers who administer vaccines should perform a pre-vaccination screen of all recipients to determine:
 - if there are any contraindications or precautions to the vaccines that are to be administered, and
 - whether alternative or additional vaccines should be considered
- A comprehensive pre-vaccination health screening is necessary to assess a person's medical fitness for vaccination and to determine whether a different vaccine schedule may be recommended.

Follow these steps to complete the screening process:

1. Provide the person to be vaccinated or the parent/carer with the *Pre-vaccination screening checklist*. (Table 1.3.1) NB. Some of the questions in this checklist are deliberately non-specific so as to elicit as much important information as possible.
 - The pre-vaccination screening checklist may be photocopied and handed to the parent/carer or person to be vaccinated just prior to vaccination.
 - It may also be photocopied and displayed in the clinic / surgery for easy reference for the immunisation service provider.
2. When any of the conditions or circumstances are identified by the pre-vaccination screening checklist, refer to Table 1.3.2 which lists the specific issues pertaining to these conditions or circumstances and provided the appropriate action with a rational.
3. Where necessary, further expert advice should be sought from a medical practitioner with expertise in vaccination, the immunisation section within your state or territory health authority, or your local Public Health Unit:

Contact details for Western Australian
State Health Department
9321 1312

4. No one should be denied the benefits of vaccination by withholding vaccines for inappropriate reasons (see table 1.3.3 False contraindications to vaccination)