

## Information for Parents – Prevenar 13®

### **What is Prevenar 13®?**

Prevenar 13® is a vaccine that covers against 13 different pneumococcal strains which cause the majority of pneumococcal infections in young children. These bacteria can cause serious childhood infections including blood infection (bacteremia), lung infection (pneumonia) and infections around the brain (meningitis). Prevenar 13 now replaces Prevenar 7 on the National Immunisation Program. Prevenar 13 includes the original 7 strains in Prevenar 7 plus an additional 6 strains.

### **Who should be vaccinated with Prevenar 13®?**

Prevenar 13 is recommended for all infants at 2, 4 and 6 months of age. A booster dose is also recommended for children with some medical conditions at 12 months of age. An additional 4<sup>th</sup> dose is recommended only for children with underlying medical conditions as these children may have a lower response to the Prevenar vaccine at 2, 4 and 6 months of age. This dose is free under the National Immunisation Program.

### **Can my older child also be vaccinated with Prevenar 13®?**

From 1 October 2011 until 30 September 2012, all children aged between 12 months to 3 years of age can have a free booster (supplementary) dose of the Prevenar 13 vaccine to provide the protection against the additional 6 strains not included in Prevenar 7. If your child is between 12 months and 3 years of age, is up to date with their childhood vaccinations and has not had a dose of Prevenar 13®, you can go to your doctor or immunisation provider for a free dose of Prevenar 13®.

### **If my child has already had Prevenar 13®, will they need a supplementary dose?**

No. If your child is up to date with their childhood vaccinations and has already had at least 1 dose of Prevenar 13® he/she does not need the booster dose as they have already received the protection against the 6 additional strains provided in Prevenar 13®.

### **Is the Prevenar 13® vaccine safe?**

Most vaccines can cause mild side effects. The most common side effects are mild and may include pain, swelling, tenderness and/or redness where the injection was given. Decreased appetite, fever, irritability and increased or decreased amount of sleep may also occur. Some children may experience high temperatures following vaccination. The National Health and Medical Research Council recommend the use of paracetamol for the management of high temperatures.

If the reaction persists or seems severe and you are concerned speak to your doctor or the Immunisation Section 1300 232 272.

### **Can the vaccine be administered at the same time as the other childhood vaccines?**

Prevenar 13 vaccine can be safely administered at the same time as the other vaccines on the immunisation schedule including Infanrix hexa, rotavirus, meningococcal C and measles mumps and rubella. Prevenar 13 can also be administered safely with the influenza vaccines however there may be an increased risk of fever and febrile convulsions. The National Health and Medical Research Council recommend the use of paracetamol for the management of high temperatures. If you are concerned, please speak to your doctor or the Immunisation Section phone 1300 232 272.

### **My child is 8 years of age with underlying medical conditions. Is Prevenar 13® recommended?**

No. the Prevenar 13® vaccine is licensed for infants and children from 6 weeks up to 5 years of age, therefore not to be administered to individuals 6 years of age or older.

July 2011