

INVASIVE MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE

Information for NSW General Practitioners & Aboriginal Medical Services

Please distribute this information to all staff



Health

1. GPs can offer free MenACWY vaccine to any 15-19 year olds who have not been vaccinated at school.
2. August and September are peak months for invasive meningococcal disease. GPs should be alert for meningococcal disease symptoms in all ages.
3. Patients should always be advised to seek further health care if symptoms persist or worsen.

Meningococcal disease epidemiology

- There has been a significant increase in invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) caused by serogroup W (MenW) and serogroup Y in NSW since 2013. While cases have declined since introduction of the vaccination program, they remain high compared to the period before 2015.
- MenW is associated with a higher case fatality rate (CFR) ($\approx 10\%$) compared to other types of IMD ($\approx 5\%$), and is more likely to have an atypical presentation.

How does meningococcal disease present?

- Disease can occur at any age but is more common in children 0-4 yrs, and people 14-24 yrs.
- Symptoms of meningococcal disease are non-specific and may mimic other illnesses such as gastroenteritis or respiratory infection early on, and often worsen rapidly.
- Patients should always be advised to seek further health care if symptoms persist or worsen.
- Meningococcal disease follows a seasonal trend with most cases occurring in late winter or early spring. GPs should also be alert to the possibility of atypical IMD presentation such as septic arthritis, pneumonia, and epiglottitis.

A meningococcal disease public health advice poster is available to download, print, and display in your waiting room or surgery: www.health.nsw.gov.au/meningococcal-poster

Meningococcal vaccination

The following vaccines are available free in NSW:

AGE GROUP	VACCINE	VACCINE PROVIDER
12 months of age <i>National Immunisation Program Schedule</i>	Nimenrix® (Men ACWY)	GPs & AMSs
10-<15 years <i>NIP catch-up program</i>	NeisVac-C® (Men C)	GPs & AMSs <i>For children not vaccinated in infancy</i>
15-19 years <i>NSW funded program</i>	Menactra® (Men ACWY)	GPs & AMSs <i>Catch-up for those not vaccinated at school</i>
Years 10 and 11 in 2018 Year 10 in 2019 <i>NSW funded program</i>	Menactra® (MenACWY) Nimenrix® (Men ACWY)	Schools

All vaccines are available for ordering online at: <https://nsw.tollhealthcare.com/>

Further Information:

- Contact your local public health unit on **1300 066 055**
- More information www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Pages/meningococcal.aspx

Yours sincerely

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