

INVASIVE MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE

Information for NSW General Practitioners & Aboriginal Medical Services

Please distribute this information to all staff



Health

1. August and September are peak months for invasive meningococcal disease. GPs should be alert for meningococcal disease symptoms in all ages.
2. NSW is offering meningococcal ACWY vaccine (Men ACWY) to Year 10 and 11 students through schools in 2018 and to Year 10 students in 2019.
3. GPs can offer free Men ACWY to any 15-19 year olds who have not been vaccinated at school until 31 December 2018.

IMD 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 MenW notifications decreased in NSW following the introduction of the vaccination program in 2017, the number of cases remain high compared to the period before 2015.
- MenW is associated with a higher case fatality rate (CFR) compared to other types of IMD, with seven deaths out of 78 reported cases of MenW in 2017 (CFR 9%).

How does IMD present?

- Disease occurs in all age groups. Symptoms of meningococcal disease are non-specific but may include sudden onset of fever, headache, neck stiffness, joint pain, a rash of red-purple spots or bruises, dislike of bright lights nausea and vomiting.
- 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.
- Patients should always be advised to seek further health care if symptoms persist or worsen.

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
15-19 years <i>NSW funded program until 31 December 2018</i>	Menactra® (Men ACWY)	GPs & AMSs
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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