

17 April 2023

Tēnā koe,

Temporary coadministration fee for pertussis and influenza vaccines when concomitantly administered to pregnant people between 1 April 2023 and 30 June 2023 – General Practice

The National Immunisation Programme (the Programme) wishes to thank you for the continued commitment from your teams to protect people in Aotearoa against vaccine preventable diseases, particularly the most vulnerable who are too young to be vaccinated themselves.

Tragically, we have had three young infants die from pertussis in the last few weeks. Antenatal immunisations for pertussis and influenza are a key priority of the Aotearoa immunisation strategy, as coverage remains low and wide ethnic disparities exist.

Antenatal immunisation coverage in Aotearoa is suboptimal, currently at less than 50 percent for diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (Tdap) in pregnancy. Māori and Pacific people and those from areas of high deprivation continue to have significantly lower antenatal immunisation rates than those of non-Māori non-Pacific. Māori and Pacific infants are also more likely to require hospitalisation with pertussis than those from other ethnic groups.

To support your continued efforts to lift antenatal immunisation rates, there will be a temporary coadministration fee applied when pertussis (as Tdap) and influenza vaccines are administered concomitantly to a pregnant person. This is a temporary coadministration fee paid in addition to the standard administration fee under the Primary Health Organisation Service Agreement (PHOSA). This temporary coadministration fee will run as a pilot from 1 April 2023 to 30 June 2023 and will include back-dated payments. Success of this pilot will determine if funding can be secured in the future to implement this coadministration fee permanently as part of a wider PHOSA.

The coadministration fee will apply as follows:

Influenza and pertussis concomitantly administered to a pregnant person between 1 April – 30 June 2023	Baseline immunisation administration fee of \$27.84 (exl GST) and coadministration fee of \$19.54 (exl GST) Total paid is \$47.38 (exl GST)
---	--

Why are we doing this pilot?

This pilot is aimed at improving antenatal immunisation rates, which is one of the recommendations of the December 2022 Immunisation Taskforce Report.

It is recommended and funded for pregnant people to receive a pertussis (as Tdap) vaccination with each pregnancy and influenza vaccination every influenza season to protect the pregnant person, the growing baby, and infant from infection and serious complications.

COVID-19 vaccines (if eligible) and influenza vaccines are recommended at any stage during pregnancy and have separate administration fees. The pertussis vaccine is recommended for pregnant people from the second trimester.

Payment process

- Payment will be managed by Te Whatu Ora and **no additional claiming process** will be required by the immunisation provider.
- Te Whatu Ora Districts will continue to pay the baseline Immunisation Administration fee via their standard mechanisms.
- Te Whatu Ora will make the top-up payments directly to PHOs and payment will be passed on to respective providers on the 20th of every month as with previous temporary uplifts.
- Please ensure that vaccination information is entered into your PMS in a timely fashion to ensure that details are reflected through to payment.
- Data will be extracted from Proclaim for the period 1 April 2023 to 30 June 2023 to allow top-up payments to be calculated.
- **The top-up mechanism requires the health consumer to have a LMC registration and/or for GP providers to have ‘pregnancy’ indication included in the immunisation event in order for coadministration payment to flow through.** Confirm the person is registered with an LMC for this pregnancy.

Special circumstances

If the health consumer is confident they are in their second or third trimester and has not yet registered with a LMC for antenatal care, still administer the relevant vaccines.

- When loading this vaccination event into your PMS, including a ‘pregnancy’ indication (16) will ensure correct payment processing.
- If the health consumer is not engaged with a LMC or hospital-based midwifery team for their antenatal care, please refer and support them to engage with maternity services:

Auckland (all three districts)	Auckland Midwifery Resource Centre Tel. 09 625 9764. Email: auckadmin@nzcom.org.nz
Canterbury	Canterbury Midwifery Resource Centre Tel. 03 365 2789. Email: mrc.chch@gmail.com
Rest of Aotearoa	Go to www.findyourmidwife.co.nz , click on the relevant region of the map and scroll down that region’s page for the maternity unit and hospital tiles. Click on the closest maternity facility to obtain the telephone number to provide to the pregnant person or call on their behalf.

Thank you again for the vital roles you and your teams play in protecting people in Aotearoa against vaccine preventable diseases.

Ngā mihi,





Astrid Koornneef
Interim Director, Prevention
National Public Health Service