

Additional guidance: Upper age limit applied to the 6-week immunisations payment for the Pre-call & Recall initiative

In April 2024, Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora (Te Whatu Ora) announced additional funding for general practice to support increasing childhood immunisation rates. General practice are the main providers of childhood immunisations and are responsible for pre-call/recall activity for their enrolled population. This is particularly important for 6-week immunisations which is closely associated with on-time completion of the Childhood Immunisation Schedule. This funding aims to support general practice for the time and effort required to undertake pre-call/recall, and where required, referral to outreach or other vaccination service providers, as part of achieving 6-week immunisations for their pre-enrolled or enrolled eligible population. Te Whatu Ora have also provided funding to Primary Health Organisations (PHO's) to coordinate this initiative and facilitate best practice pre-call/recall and referral processes.

Upper age limit : 2 years old

Te Whatu Ora is committed to achieving the national target of 95 percent of children fully immunised by 24 months of age by 2030. With this overarching goal, the Pre-call & Recall initiative should target children up to 2 years old, with emphasis on reaching those under 2 years of age for their relevant immunisation milestone events. The completion, whether fully or partially, of the 6-week immunisation event between 1 April 2024 and 30 June 2025, is the trigger of payment for activities undertaken to pre-call and recall these children. This approach also supports reporting as it aligns with current Tier one reporting milestone ages.

Resources

Additional clinical guidance is available in [Appendix 2: Planning immunisation catch-ups](#) of the [Immunisation Handbook](#), particularly [Table A2.1: Minimum number of antigens required, by age at time of presentation, for infants](#) and children aged <10 years. The Immunisation Handbook contains the relevant catch-up guidance for infants and children aged under 2 years.

We continue to emphasise the importance of the key messages highlighted in the *Best Practice Pre-call and Recall for 6-week immunisations* document for babies as they turn 6-weeks old. Prioritising immunisation recalls with an equity approach and consistently offering opportunistic immunisations are critical to the achievement of the completion of 6-week immunisations and subsequent childhood immunisations.