

10 September 2019

PHARMAC

By email: vaccines@pharmac.govt.nz

Proposal to widen access to meningococcal ACWY vaccine for people in close-living situations

Dear Sir / Madam

The New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) wishes to provide feedback on the above proposal. We note that the proposal entails widening access to funded meningococcal ACWY vaccine (Menactra) for people aged 13 to 25 years in close-living situations (boarding school hostels, tertiary education halls of residence, military barracks or prisons). There would also be a one-year catch-up programme to vaccinate people aged 13 to 25 years who are already living in these close-living situations.

We note that PTAC and the Immunisation Subcommittee of PTAC recommended funding with a high priority for meningococcal ACWY vaccine for a range of different patient groups, including:

- individuals aged 13 to 25 years in close-living situations;
- children aged 1 to 4 years with catch-up;
- individuals aged 5 to 21 years with catch-up;
- individuals aged 13 to 21 years with catch-up.

The NZMA strongly supports the current proposal which is for people in close-living situations. Adolescents and young adults who live in close proximity to each other in multi-residential institutions are particularly at risk of meningococcal disease due to the ease of transmission from person to person. We note that the additional groups recommended for future funding are under active consideration. We hope that PHARMAC also widens access to meningococcal ACWY vaccine for the other patient groups identified as soon as possible.

We hope our feedback is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Dr Kate Baddock
NZMA Chair