

# Meningococcal B immunisation

## Paracetamol is recommended for pēpi under 2 years old

In New Zealand the meningococcal B (MenB) vaccine we use is called Bexsero. This vaccine can cause quite high fevers – particularly for pēpi under 2 years. To reduce the chance of your baby developing high fevers, it is recommended that paracetamol is given before and after immunisation.

### Why is fever a side effect of vaccination?

Fever is a common side effect of many vaccines. It shows that the immune system is responding to the vaccine.

### When should I give the paracetamol and how much?

It's important to give the exact amount recommended by the vaccinator and at the correct times. Three doses **6 hours** apart are usually enough to stop high fevers.

The amount of paracetamol needed for each dose is based on your child's weight, so it changes as they grow. Therefore, the vaccinator may need to check your baby's weight at each visit.

If you need paracetamol talk to your vaccinator.

If you are using paracetamol that you already have at home, check the label on the bottle to make sure you are using the right strength for your child and that it has NOT expired. The label **MUST** be **120mg/5mLs** (not 250mg/5mls). If you are not sure or unable to read the label do not use the medicine and talk to your vaccinator.

Today's date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Your child's weight today is: \_\_\_\_\_  
DD MM YYYY

They should have: \_\_\_\_\_ mLs of paracetamol for each dose.

Paracetamol dose one (given with or just after the vaccine, or up to 30 minutes before)	Paracetamol dose two (given 6 hours after dose one)	Paracetamol dose three (given 6 hours after dose two)
Given at (time): _____	Due at: _____	Due at: _____

**DO NOT give more than four doses over 24 hours.**



If you have any concerns about your child's symptoms, or they are still experiencing high fever after immunisation, talk to your doctor, practice nurse, healthcare provider or call Healthline on **0800 611 116** anytime to get advice.

If you have immediate concerns about your child's safety, call **111** for an ambulance and make sure you tell them your child has had a MenB vaccination.

Your child's next MenB vaccine is due: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_  
DD MM YYYY

This is to be given with the **After your child is immunised** handout.

For more information about the vaccine go to:  
**[immunise.health.nz/meningococcal](https://immunise.health.nz/meningococcal)**