There are a number of meningococcal vaccines which protect against different strains of the disease but none of them provide long-term protection. The vaccines listed below tend to last around 3–5 years.

Even if you have been immunised in the past you may still not be protected against the disease. It’s important therefore that you’re aware of the signs and symptoms of meningococcal disease, and seek medical advice quickly if you’re concerned.

There are two conjugate meningococcal vaccines available in New Zealand:
- Meningococcal B vaccine, a recombinant vaccine for use in babies through to adults.
- ‘Conjugate’ meningococcal vaccines – two vaccines which protect against A, C, Y, and W135 meningococcal bacteria and a vaccine which protects against group C only. The ages at which these vaccines can be given varies depending on the vaccine used.

In most cases these vaccines are recommended but NOT funded by the government. Talk to your nurse or doctor about availability and cost.

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All babies in New Zealand can be immunised against pneumococcal disease as part of their FREE childhood immunisations at 6 weeks, 3 months, 5 months and 15 months old.

In 2018, the vaccine BEXSERO was approved for use in New Zealand. (This is different to the MeNZB vaccine used in New Zealand from 2004 - 2008.) Babies younger than six months of age need three doses to be fully protected. Older babies, children and adults need two doses. Cost is approx. $150 per dose.

The vaccine used is SYNFLORIX, which covers the 10 most common pneumococcal types that cause disease in infants and young children.

Children and adults with particular medical conditions that increase their risk of pneumococcal disease are eligible for funded pneumococcal immunisation with PREVENAR-13. For more information about eligible medical conditions and vaccines, talk to your nurse or doctor.

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