A guide to
immunisations
up to 13 months of age
The complete routine childhood immunisation programme

These booklets describe the immunisations offered to your child during the first 18 years of their life.

1  A guide to immunisations up to 13 months of age
   Covers all the immunisations up to 13 months but describes in detail those at 2, 3 and 4 months.

2  Immunisations at 12 and 13 months of age
   A reminder leaflet to get your child immunised at 12 and 13 months.

3  Pre-school immunisations – a guide to vaccinations for 3- to 5-year-olds
   Details of the immunisations for your child at 3 to 5 years of age before they start school.

4  Teenage immunisations – your questions answered
   Describes the teenage immunisation at 13 to 18 years.

The complete routine immunisation programme is shown in detail on the back cover of this leaflet.

Copies of these booklets are available from your clinic or doctor's surgery. See also www.immunisation.nhs.uk
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Back cover
Routine childhood immunisation programme – a quick reference guide to your child’s immunisations
Summary of immunisations up to 13 months of age

Which immunisations will my baby have at 2, 3 and 4 months?

At 2 months, your baby will have immunisations against:
- diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib), and pneumococcal infection

At 3 months, your baby will have immunisations against:
- diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib), and meningitis C (meningococcal infection)

At 4 months, your baby will have immunisations against:
- diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib), pneumococcal infection and meningitis C

Which immunisations will my baby have at 12 and 13 months?

At 12 months, your baby will have immunisations against:
- Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) and meningitis C

At 13 months, your baby will have immunisations against:
- measles, mumps, rubella and pneumococcal infection
‘The two public health interventions that have had the greatest impact on the world’s health are clean water and vaccines.’

World Health Organization
Common questions about immunisation
What is immunisation?
Immunisation is a way of protecting against serious diseases. Once we have been immunised, our bodies are better able to fight those diseases if we come into contact with them.

How do vaccines work?
Vaccines contain a small part of the bacterium or virus that causes a disease, or tiny amounts of the chemicals that the bacterium produces. Vaccines work by causing the body's immune system to make antibodies (substances that fight off infection and disease). If your child comes into contact with the infection, the antibodies will recognise it and be ready to protect him or her. Because vaccines have been used so successfully in the UK, diseases such as diphtheria have almost disappeared from this country.

There are some diseases that can kill children or cause lasting damage to their health. Immunisations are given to prepare your child's immune system to fight off those diseases if they come into contact with them.

When should my baby be immunised?
It is important that your baby has their immunisations at the right age – the first ones are given at two months old. They will be given further doses of these immunisations when they are three months old and four months old. Other immunisations are given at around 12 months and 13 months of age, then between three and five years of age (before your child starts school), and in their teenage years (see the table on the back cover of this leaflet).
Why are babies vaccinated so early?
These diseases can be particularly serious in young babies. It is important to make sure babies are protected as early as possible to prevent them catching the diseases.

Why does my baby need more than one dose of vaccine?
Most immunisations have to be given more than once to prepare your child's immunity. For example, three doses of DTaP/IPV/Hib vaccine are needed to provide protection in babies. Booster doses are then given later in life to provide longer-term protection.

How will I know when my baby's immunisations are due?
Your doctor's surgery or clinic will send you an appointment for you to bring your baby for their immunisation. Most surgeries and health centres run special immunisation or baby clinics. If you can't get to the clinic, contact the surgery to make another appointment. All childhood immunisations are free.

What happens at the appointment?
The doctor or nurse will explain the immunisation process to you, and answer any questions you have. The vaccine is injected into the muscle of the thigh.

What if I missed the appointment?
If you missed the appointment or delayed the immunisation, make a new appointment. The immunisation schedule can be picked up where it stopped without having to start again.
If some diseases have disappeared from this country, why do we need to immunise against them?

In the UK, these diseases are kept at bay by high immunisation rates. Around the world, more than 15 million people a year die from infectious diseases. More than half of these are children under the age of five. Most of these deaths could be prevented by immunisation. As more people travel abroad and more people come to visit this country, there is a risk that they will bring these diseases into the UK. The diseases may spread to people who haven’t been immunised so your baby is at greater risk if he or she has not been immunised. Immunisation doesn’t just protect your child, it also helps to protect your family and the whole community, especially those children who, for medical reasons, can’t be immunised.

Remember, it’s never too late to have your child immunised. Even if your child has missed an immunisation and is older than the recommended ages, talk to your doctor, practice nurse or health visitor to arrange for your child to be immunised.

How do we know that vaccines are safe?

Before they are allowed to be used, all medicines (including vaccines) are thoroughly tested to assess their safety and effectiveness. After they have been licensed, the safety of vaccines continues to be monitored. Any rare side effects that are discovered can then be assessed further. All medicines can cause side effects, but vaccines are among the very safest. Research from around the world shows that immunisation is the safest way to protect your child’s health.