



Australian Immunisation Register Immunisation medical exemption

When to use this form

Use this form if you are a general practitioner, paediatrician, clinical immunologist, infectious disease physician or public health physician and would like to notify the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) of an individual who has a vaccine exemption due to a medical contraindication or natural immunity.

You can record a vaccine exemption due to a medical contraindication or natural immunity online through the AIR site. Vaccine exemptions recorded on the AIR site are processed immediately.

This form will not be accepted if it has been altered in any way or is incomplete.

For more information

Go to humanservices.gov.au/hpair

Filling in this form

- Please use black or blue pen.
- Print in BLOCK LETTERS.

Individual's details

1 Medicare card number

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Ref no.

2 Family name

First given name

Second given name

3 Postal address

Postcode

4 Date of birth

 / /

5 Gender

- Male
 Female

Vaccines exempt due to medical contraindication

The medical basis for vaccine exemption is to be based on guidance in *The Australian Immunisation Handbook*. Advice on what constitutes a valid medical exemption to vaccination is provided on page 3 of this form.

6 The individual identified on this form has a:

- permanent** vaccine exemption due to medical contraindication because of the following:
- previous anaphylaxis (to vaccine/vaccine component)
 / /
- significant immunocompromise (live attenuated vaccines only)

OR

- temporary** vaccine exemption until / /
- due to a non-permanent contraindication because of the following:
- acute major medical illness
- significant immunocompromise of short duration (live attenuated vaccines only)
- the individual is pregnant (live attenuated vaccines only)

7 Select from the following vaccines: Tick ANY that apply

Live

- M-M-R II Priorix-Tetra Rotarix
 Priorix ProQuad

Inactivated

- ActHIB Infanrix Nimenrix
 Gardasil 9 Infanrix Hexa Prevenar 13
 Hiberix Infanrix IPV

Other vaccine Specify



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Antigens exempt due to natural immunity

Natural immunity to a disease is a valid exemption to vaccination for the antigens listed below. Exemption to a combination of vaccine(s) on the basis of natural immunity is only valid if immunity is confirmed for all vaccine antigens. Advice on what constitutes acceptable evidence of natural immunity is provided on page 3 of this form.

8 The individual has a natural immunity to:

Hepatitis B Mumps Varicella
Measles Rubella

This has been confirmed by:

Laboratory testing

OR

Physician-based clinical diagnosis

Privacy notice

9 Your personal information is protected by law (including the *Privacy Act 1988*) and is collected by the Australian Government Department of Human Services for the assessment and administration of payments and services. This information is required to process your application or claim.

Your information may be used by the department, or given to other parties where you have agreed to that, or where it is required or authorised by law (including for the purpose of research or conducting investigations).

You can get more information about the way in which the department will manage your personal information, including our privacy policy, at humanservices.gov.au/privacy

Provider's declaration

10 I declare that:

- I am eligible to certify immunisation medical exemptions under the *Australian Immunisation Register Act 2015* and its amendments
- the information I have provided in this form is complete and correct.

I understand that:

- under the *Australian Immunisation Register Act 2015*, general practitioners, as defined in the *Health Insurance Act 1973*, are eligible to certify immunisation medical exemptions on the Australian Immunisation Register. These are:
 - Fellows of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners recognised by Medicare
 - Fellows of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine recognised by Medicare
 - on Medicare's Vocational Register of General Practitioners.
- general practice registrars on an approved 3GA training placement are also eligible to certify immunisation medical exemptions on the Australian Immunisation Register.
- Paediatricians, public health physicians, infectious diseases physicians, and clinical immunologists are also eligible to certify immunisation medical exemptions on the Australian Immunisation Register.
- giving false or misleading information is a serious offence, under the *Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth)*. The Australian Government Department of Human Services regularly undertake audits and can make relevant enquiries to make sure recipients receive the correct entitlement. If we become aware of the provision of false or misleading information, or any fraudulent activity, to the extent permitted by law, the Commonwealth will pursue the relevant person(s).
- this form will not be accepted if it has been altered in any way or is incomplete.

Medicare provider number

Provider's signature

Date

Returning your form

Check that all required questions are answered and that the form is signed and dated.

You can return this form:

- **by post to:**
Department of Human Services
Australian Immunisation Register
PO Box 7852
CANBERRA ACT 2610
- or
- **by fax: 08 9254 4810**

Guidelines for immunisation medical exemption

What is considered a valid medical contraindication to immunisation?

The medical basis for vaccine exemption is to be based on guidance in *The Australian Immunisation Handbook* which is available on the Immunise Australia website immunise.health.gov.au

Medical contraindications include:

- anaphylaxis following a previous dose of the relevant vaccine
 - anaphylaxis following any component of the relevant vaccine
 - significant immunocompromise (for live attenuated vaccines only).
- Note:** For further details, including what is considered significant immunocompromise, see *The Australian Immunisation Handbook*. For example, HIV-infected persons in whom immunocompromise is mild can be given MMR and varicella vaccines.

No child should be denied the benefits of immunisation by withholding vaccines for inappropriate reasons. A comprehensive list of false contraindications to vaccination is provided in *The Australian Immunisation Handbook*.

- Egg allergy, even severe, is not necessarily a valid exemption for any vaccine routinely recommended for children.
- Presence of a chronic underlying medical condition (apart from significant immunocompromise) is not a valid vaccine exemption.
- Family history of any adverse events following immunisation is not a valid vaccine exemption.

In what circumstances should a vaccine be temporarily deferred?

There are some circumstances where the administration of a vaccine should be deferred. These include:

- acute major medical condition
- significantly impaired immune function that is anticipated to be of short duration
- pregnancy (for live attenuated vaccines only).

While vaccination should be deferred in persons with acute febrile illness (current $T \geq 38.5^{\circ}\text{C}$) or other self-limiting acute systemic illness, this would usually be for short periods only and not require completion of this form. For detailed advice check *The Australian Immunisation Handbook*.

What evidence should I consider when assessing a possible natural immunity?

A previous infection is not a contraindication to immunisation against that same disease. Laboratory testing (via serology, antigen detection or polymerase chain reaction [PCR]) can reliably provide evidence of immunity to hepatitis B, varicella, measles, mumps and rubella. A physician-based clinical diagnosis is accepted although is less reliable than laboratory testing as these diseases are now uncommon among Australian children due to the widespread immunisation and other infections can have similar clinical presentations.

Who do I contact if I am uncertain whether to vaccinate or not?

Further advice can be sought from your state or territory health authority (see contact details below). In most states and territories specialist immunisation clinics exist which are equipped to assist with complex issues, such as how to manage patients who have experienced a previous adverse event following immunisation or who have an underlying medical condition.

Resources for communicating the risks and benefits of immunisation

The following resources are available to facilitate discussion on the risks and benefits of immunisation with patients and/or their carers, including those who may have concerns relating to vaccines and immunisation:

- The summary table inside the back cover of the *The Australian Immunisation Handbook* providing 'Comparison of the effects of diseases and the side effects of NIP vaccines'
- Other resources available at immunise.health.gov.au
- *Immunisation Myths and Realities: a guide for providers* (5th edition) immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/uci-myths-guideprov
- Vaccine preventable disease and vaccine safety factsheets prepared by the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance ncirs.edu.au/provider-resources/ncirs-fact-sheets/

Contact details for state and territory government health authorities

Australian Capital Territory Immunisation Enquiry Line	02 6205 2300
New South Wales (to contact your local public health unit)	1300 066 055
Northern Territory Centre for Disease Control	08 8922 8044
Queensland (to contact your local public health unit)	13 HEALTH (13 4325 84)
South Australia	1300 232 272
Tasmania	1800 671 738
Victoria	1300 882 008
Western Australia	08 9321 1312