



Notice no. 19

17.03.2025

## **AVVIŻ MILL-MINISTERU GHAS-SAĦĦA U L-ANZJANITÀ ATTIVA**

### **Estensjoni tal-eligibilità tal-vaċċin PCV-20 għal aktar gruppi vulnerabbli**

Il-Ministeru għas-Saħħa u l-Anzjanità Attiva ħabbar l-estensjoni tal-kriterji ta' eligibilità għall-Vaċċin Konjugat Pneumokokkali (PCV-20) għal aktar gruppi vulnerabbli. Din l-inizjattiva hija parti mill-impenn kontinwu ta' pajiżna biex jipproteġi s-saħħa pubblika u jipproteġi liċ-ċittadini, speċjalment nies vulnerabbli għal mard infettiv bħal adulti anzjani u dawk b'kundizzjonijiet kroniċi, mill-marda pneumokokkali li tista' twassal għal infezzjonijiet serji bħal pnemonja, meningite, u sepsi.

### **Programm ta' Vaċċinazzjoni Kurrenti:**

Il-programm ta' vaċċinazzjoni bla ħlas eżistenti f'Malta joffri l-vaċċin PCV10 lit-tfal bħala parti mill-iskeda ta' immunizzazzjoni. Dan il-vaċċin jipproteġi kontra 10 tipi ta' batterji pneumokokkali u jingħata f'tliet dozi ta' 8 ġimghat, 4 xhur, u 12-il xahar ta' età. Il-vaċċin huwa disponibbli bla ħlas fiċ-ċentri tas-saħħa fi ħdan il-kura primarja tas-saħħa u permezz tat-tobba tal-familja u l-pedjatriċi fis-settur privat.

Għall-adulti ta' 65 sena u aktar, il-vaċċin PCV20, li jipproteġi kontra 20 tipi ta' batterji pneumokokkali, huwa offrut bla ħlas. L-adulti jistgħu jirċievu l-vaċċin bħala servizz walk-in bejn l-10:00am u l-5:00pm fiċ-ċentri tas-saħħa, u permezz tal-kliniċi tas-Servizz Nazzjonali ta' Immunizzazzjoni b'appuntament. Doża waħda hija biżżejjed għal protezzjoni fit-tul.

### **Estensjoni tal-eligibilità għall-vaċċin PCV-20:**

Mil-lum, wara preżentazzjoni ta' riċetta mingħand tabib, il-vaċċin PCV-20 se jkun estiż għal dawn il-persuni:

Għal persuni ta' kwalunkwe età 'l fuq minn 6 ġimghat b':

- Telf ta' fluwidu ċerebrospinali
- Mard kroniku tal-fwied
- Impjant kokleari
- Kundizzjoni immunokompromessa:
  - Asplenja kongenitali jew akkwistata, jew disfunzjoni splenika
  - Immunodeficienza kongenitali jew akkwistata
  - Mard jew kundizzjonijiet trattati b'drogi immunosoppressivi jew terapija bir-radjazzjoni
  - Infezzjoni bl-HIV
  - Mard taċ-ċelluli sickle jew emoglobinopatija oħra

Dijabete mellitus

Mard kroniku tal-qalb:

- Jinkludi insuffiċjenza kongestiva tal-qalb u kardjomiopati



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- Mard kongenitali ċjanotiku tal-qalb u insuffiċjenza tal-qalb fit-tfal
- Teskludi l-ipertensjoni

Mard kroniku tal-pulmun:

- Jinkludi mard ostruttiv kroniku tal-pulmun, enfisema, u aźma
- Aźma persistenti moderata jew severa fit-tfal

Insuffiċjenza renali kronika jew sindromu nefrotiku:

- Dijalizi ta' manteniment
- Mard kroniku tal-kliewi fit-tfal

## Post ta' Amministrazzjoni:

- Adulti: Fiċ-ċentri tas-saħħa ta' Hal Kirkop, Bormla, Gżira, Birkirkara u Hal Qormi, mit-Tnejn sal-Ġimgħa, mill-10:00am sal-5:00pm. Fiċ-ċentri tas-saħħa ta' Raħal Ġdid, il-Mosta, il-Furjana u Għawdex, mit-Tnejn sal-Ħadd, mill-10:00am sal-5:00pm.
- Tfal (taħt is-17-il sena): B'appuntament fi kwalunkwe waħda mill-kliniċi tas-Servizz Nazzjonali ta' Immunizzazzjoni (NIS). Il-ġenituri huma mitluba jċemplu 21231231 ext 7 jew jibgħatu email lil [immunisation@gov.mt](mailto:immunisation@gov.mt) biex jiffissaw appuntament.

Għal aktar informazzjoni tista' tikkuntattja l-Kura Primarja tas-Saħħa fuq 21231231.



## **PRESS NOTICE BY THE MINISTRY FOR HEALTH AND ACTIVE AGEING**

### **Extension of PCV-20 Vaccine eligibility for vulnerable groups**

The Ministry for Health and Active Ageing announced the extension of eligibility criteria for the Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV-20) to additional vulnerable groups. This initiative is part of Malta's ongoing commitment to safeguard public health and protect its citizens from pneumococcal disease, especially for vulnerable populations such as older adults and those with chronic conditions, which can lead to serious infections such as pneumonia, meningitis, and sepsis.

### **Current Vaccination Program:**

The existing free vaccination programme in Malta offers the PCV10 vaccine to children as part of the routine immunization schedule. This vaccine protects against 10 strains of pneumococcal bacteria and is administered in three doses at 8 weeks, 4 months, and 12 months of age. The vaccine is available free of charge at health centres within primary health care and through GPs and paediatricians in the private sector.

For adults aged 65 and older, the PCV20 vaccine, which protects against 20 strains of pneumococcal bacteria, is offered free of charge. Adults can receive the vaccine as a walk-in service between 10:00am and 5:00pm at health centres treatment rooms, and through the National Immunization Service clinics by appointment. One dose is sufficient for long-term protection.

### **Extension of Eligibility Criteria:**

Effective from today, upon presentation of a prescription from a medical doctor, the PCV-20 vaccine will be extended to the following risk groups in addition to those currently eligible.

### **For persons of any age above 6 weeks with:**

- Cerebrospinal fluid leak
- Chronic liver disease
- Cochlear implant
- An immunocompromising condition:
  - Congenital or acquired asplenia, or splenic dysfunction
  - Congenital or acquired immunodeficiency
  - Diseases or conditions treated with immunosuppressive drugs or radiation therapy
  - HIV infection
  - Sickle cell disease or other hemoglobinopathy
- Diabetes mellitus
- Chronic heart disease:



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- Includes congestive heart failure and cardiomyopathies
- Cyanotic congenital heart disease and cardiac failure in children
- Excludes hypertension
- Chronic lung disease:
  - Includes chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, emphysema, and asthma
  - Moderate or severe persistent asthma in children
- Chronic renal failure or nephrotic syndrome:
  - Maintenance dialysis
  - Chronic kidney disease in children

## Location of Administration:

- **Adults:** Treatment rooms of Kirkop, Cospicua, Gzira, Birkirkara, and Qormi health centres, Monday to Friday, 10:00am to 5:00pm. Treatment rooms of Paola, Mosta, Floriana, and Gozo, Monday to Sunday, 10:00am to 5:00pm.
- **Children (17 years and under):** By appointment at any of the National Immunization Service (NIS) clinics. Parents are kindly asked to call 21231231 ext. 7 or email [immunisation@gov.mt](mailto:immunisation@gov.mt) to fix an appointment.

For more information, please contact Primary Health Care on 21231231.