

Vaccine preparation specifics

This factsheet is intended to sit alongside the IMAC factsheet '[A guide to vaccine administration](#)', and provides specific instructions on preparation of vaccines in Aotearoa New Zealand. Immunisation Handbook Appendix A7.2 (preparation and administration of vaccines) is also a useful resource to support vaccine preparation.

Vaccine	Presentation and handling instructions as per Medsafe Data Sheet (MSDS)	Instructions for vaccines requiring reconstitution as per Medsafe Data Sheet (MSDS)
Oral suspension		
Rotarix	Oral suspension – in squeezable tube. Clear colourless liquid. Vaccine is ready for oral administration .	
Prefilled syringes		
Bexsero	Shake well to form homogenous suspension.	
Engerix B 20mcg (1.0mL dose)	Shake well. Slightly opaque, white suspension.	
Engerix B 10mcg (0.5mL dose)		
Gardasil 9	Shake well before use. Gardasil 9 is a white, cloudy liquid.	
Havrix 1440 (1.0mL dose)	Shake well before use. Opaque white suspension.	
Havrix Junior (0.5mL dose)		
Infanrix IPV	Shake well	
Influvac Tetra	Shake contents before use	

IPOL	Inject the entire contents of the prefilled syringe via subcutaneous (SC) administration. Clear, colourless sterile suspension.	
Pneumovax 23	Inject the entire contents of the prefilled syringe. Clear, colourless solution.	
Prevenar 13	The vaccine should be well shaken to obtain a white suspension.	
Vials requiring draw up		
Menquadfi	Remove the flip cap off seal. Using a suitable syringe and needle draw up 0.5mL of the vaccine, and check the volume is correct. Change the needle. Administer contents of the syringe. Clear, colourless solution.	
Vaccines requiring reconstitution		
Arexvy	The reconstituted vaccine is an opalescent, colourless to pale brownish liquid. <i>The reconstituted vaccine should be inspected visually for any foreign particulate matter and/or variation of appearance. If either is observed, do not administer the vaccine.</i>	Arexvy must be reconstituted prior to administration. 1. Withdraw the entire contents of the vial containing the suspension into a syringe with a suitable needle 2. Add the entire contents of the syringe into the vial containing the powder 3. Gently swirl until the powder is completely dissolved. Before administration: 1. Withdraw 0.5mL of the reconstituted vaccine into the syringe 2. Change the needle so that you are using a new needle 3. Administer the vaccine intramuscularly.
Infanrix hexa <i>Prepare this vaccine last so it has time to warm a little.</i>	Vial should be kept at room temperature for 5 minutes before connecting the prefilled syringe and reconstituting the vaccine. The reconstituted vaccine presents as a slightly more cloudy suspension than the liquid component alone. <i>The reconstituted vaccine should be inspected visually for any foreign particulate matter and/or variation of appearance. If either is observed, do not administer the vaccine.</i>	The suspension should be well shaken to obtain a homogenous turbid suspension. Must be reconstituted by adding the entire contents of the prefilled syringe containing DTPa-HepB-IPV to vial containing HIB powder. The mixture should be well shaken until the powder is completely dissolved in the suspension. Draw up entire contents of reconstituted vaccine. Remove and discard needle used for reconstitution, expel air to hub of syringe, then attach an appropriate needle for administration.

Priorix	Powder (whitish to slightly pink) for injection in glass vial. Diluent (clear, colourless) solution for injection in glass pre-filled syringe or ampoule. The reconstituted vaccine may vary in colour from clear peach to fuchsia pink. <i>The reconstituted vaccine should be inspected visually for any foreign particulate matter and/or variation of appearance. If either is observed, do not administer the vaccine.</i>	Must be reconstituted by adding entire contents of the supplied prefilled syringe of diluent to the vial containing the powder. The mixture should be well mixed until the powder is completely dissolved in the diluent. Draw up entire contents of reconstituted vaccine. Remove and discard needle used for reconstitution, expel air to hub of syringe, then attach an appropriate needle for administration.
ACT-Hib	Act-HIB is a freeze-dried power for reconstitution with diluent for injection. Following reconstitution, the solution is clear and colourless. <i>The reconstituted vaccine should be inspected visually for any foreign particulate matter and/or variation of appearance. If either is observed, do not administer the vaccine.</i>	Reconstitute the vaccine 1. Slowly inject the entire contents of the diluent pre-filled syringe into the centre of the stopper on the vial. Shake vigorously until the freeze-dried powder is completely dissolved and a colourless solution is visible. 2. Shake vigorously until the powder is completely dissolved. Before administration 1. Withdraw the entire contents of the reconstituted vaccine into the syringe and administer the total volume (about 0.5mL).
Varilrix	Powder in glass vial. Diluent solution for injection in glass prefilled syringe. The reconstituted vaccine may vary in colour from clear peach to pink coloured solution. <i>The reconstituted vaccine should be inspected visually for any foreign particulate matter and/or variation of appearance. If either is observed, do not administer the vaccine.</i>	Must be reconstituted by adding entire contents of the supplied prefilled syringe of diluent to the vial containing the powder. The mixture should be well mixed until the powder is completely dissolved in the diluent. Draw up entire contents of reconstituted vaccine. Remove and discard needle used for reconstitution. A new needle should be used to administer the vaccine.
Shingrix	Powder (white) and suspension (colourless to pale brown liquid) in separate glass vials. The reconstituted vaccine is an opalescent, colourless to pale brownish liquid. <i>The reconstituted vaccine should be inspected visually for any foreign particulate matter and/or variation of appearance. If either is observed, do not administer the vaccine.</i>	Reconstitute the vaccine 1. Withdraw the entire contents of the vial containing the suspension into a syringe with a suitable needle 2. Add the entire contents of the syringe into the vial containing the powder 3. Shake gently until the powder is completely dissolved. Before administration 1. Draw up 0.5mL of the reconstituted vaccine, and check volume is correct 2. Change the needle 3. Administer the contents of the syringe.