

## **NORWAY**

The Norwegian childhood vaccination programme is organised within the public health service. The national recommendations on immunisation, including the immunisation programme are decided by the Ministry of Health and Care Services. The Norwegian Institute of Public Health provides advice to the Ministry on the use of all vaccines and on the national vaccination programme. The programme is set at national level and applies to the whole country. There are no mandatory vaccinations in Norway.

The local municipality health services are responsible for delivering the vaccines included in the immunisation programme. The immunisations are usually provided by public health nurses. Babies and toddlers are vaccinated at well baby clinics, while school children are vaccinated within the school health service. All vaccinations within the childhood vaccination programme are free of charge. The table below shows the vaccines included in the Norwegian childhood vaccination programme.

Hepatitis B vaccine is recommended for risk groups only and is provided by hospitals, well baby clinics, school health services and general practitioners. Hepatitis B vaccine for the risk groups is reimbursed by the Social Security Scheme.

Rubella vaccine is offered free of charge to women of childbearing age who do not have immunity against rubella (after routine screening in pregnancy).

Influenza and pneumococcal vaccines are recommended to risk groups (including elderly above 65 years of age) and provided both by general practitioners and through the public health service. Pneumococcal vaccinations must be paid by the vaccinees. Influenza vaccine is free of charge for the risk groups from the season 2006/2007. The patients must however pay for the administration of the vaccine.

All vaccines for the immunisation programme as well the other recommended vaccines are purchased centrally by the Norwegian Institute of Public Health and distributed to the local vaccine providers. Vaccines are also available on the private market.

The uptake of vaccines in the childhood immunisation programme is monitored by the Norwegian Institute of Public Health by a centralised electronic vaccination registry. The vaccine coverage at national as well as district level (counties and municipalities) among children at 2, 6 and 16 years of age is published on the NIPH website. (<http://www.fhi.no/tema/vaksine/dekning>). The website of NIPH (<http://www.fhi.no>) also contains general information on the vaccination programme and on all vaccines available in Norway.

## Recommended Immunisation Schedule in Norway

Age	Vaccines						
	BCG	Diphtheria tetanus	Poliomyelitis	Pertussis	Hib	Pneumococcus	Measles – mumps – rubella
Birth	BCG <sup>1</sup>						
1 month							
3 months		DT	IPV	aP	Hib	PCV7	
5 months		DT	IPV	aP	Hib	PCV7	
6 months							
12 months		DT	IPV	aP	Hib	PCV7	
15 months							MMR
6-8 years			IPV <sup>2</sup>				
7 years		DT <sup>3</sup>	IPV <sup>3</sup>	aP <sup>3</sup>			
11-12 years		dT <sup>2</sup>					
12-13 years							MMR
13-15 years	BCG						
15-16 years		dT <sup>3</sup>	IPV				

1 Children of immigrants from countries outside low endemic countries are vaccinated as newborn

2 For children born before 1998

3 For children born in 1998 and later. Effective from January 2006