

Eligible medical conditions for funded influenza vaccine

List of eligible medical conditions for funded influenza immunisation (adults and children).
For eligibility queries call 0800 IMMUNE (0800 466 863).

Funded influenza vaccine is available each year for patients who meet the following criteria as set by PHARMAC:

- all people 65 years of age and over; or
- people under 65 years of age who:
 - have any of the following cardiovascular diseases:
 - ischaemic heart disease, or
 - congestive heart failure, or
 - rheumatic heart disease, or
 - congenital heart disease, or
 - cerebrovascular disease; or
 - have either of the following chronic respiratory diseases:
 - asthma, if on a regular preventative therapy, or
 - other chronic respiratory disease with impaired lung function;^a or
 - have diabetes; or
 - have chronic renal disease; or
 - have any cancer, excluding basal and squamous skin cancers if not invasive; or
- have any of the following other conditions:
 - autoimmune disease^b, or
 - immune suppression or immune deficiency, or
 - HIV, or
 - transplant recipients, or
 - neuromuscular and CNS diseases/disorders^c, or
 - haemoglobinopathies^d, or
 - are children on long term aspirin, or
 - have a cochlear implant, or
 - errors of metabolism at risk of major metabolic decompensation, or
 - pre and post splenectomy, or
 - down syndrome, or
 - are pregnant (any trimester); or
- **children aged four years and under who have been hospitalised for respiratory illness or have a history of significant respiratory illness;**

Unless meeting the criteria set out above, the following conditions are excluded from funding:

- asthma not requiring regular preventative therapy,
- hypertension and/or dyslipidaemia without evidence of end-organ disease.

a Chronic respiratory diseases may include: chronic bronchitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cystic fibrosis, emphysema.

b Autoimmune diseases may include: coeliac disease, Crohns disease, Graves' disease, Hashimoto's thyroiditis, lupus, rheumatoid arthritis; Immune suppression or immune deficiency includes diseases modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) or targeted biologic therapies.

c Neuromuscular and CNS diseases/disorders include: cerebral palsy, congenital myopathy, epilepsy, hydrocephaly, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, myasthenia gravis, Parkinson's disease.

d Haemoglobinopathies including: sickle cell anaemia, thalassaemia.