

MENINGOCOCCUS VACCINATION: NEW ADVICE FOR VACCINATION AT 15 MONTHS

Advice

The Superior Health Council **recommends substituting** the vaccine against **meningococcal ACWY (Nimenrix®)** for the vaccine against **meningococcal C (NeisVac-C®)** which is currently given free at the consultation at 15 months. This vaccine is not free. Meningococci are bacteria. There are various strains, and the strains A, B, C, W and Y are dangerous for humans. They can cause meningitis, encephalitis and blood poisoning.

Why is the ACWY meningococcal vaccine recommended by the Superior Health Council?

In 2018, there was an increase in meningococcal infections in Belgium (as in neighbouring countries) due to the W and Y serotypes. The total number of meningococcal infections currently appears stable. The risk of a meningococcal infection may be limited, but the infection can actually be very serious.

Why is the vaccine not included in the free basic scheme?

At this moment, the increase in the number of cases is limited.
That is why the vaccine will not be available free of charge in Flanders in the short term.




















Without obligation




As a parent, you are entitled to this information, and that is why we are asking, without obliging you in any way, whether you want to have this vaccination administered to your child. If you do, the medical consultant can prescribe this vaccine to be administered at the 15-month consultation instead of the free vaccine against meningococcal C.

Cost

The meningococcal ACWY vaccine is available in pharmacies and **costs €52.60**.
You pick this up at the dispensing pharmacist on prescription from the doctor and take it to the 15-month consultation. Ask your health insurance fund whether there is any contribution to the purchase price of this vaccine. For this you should request a receipt from your pharmacist.

General timetable for the recommended vaccinations

Vaccination against	8 weeks	12 weeks	16 weeks	12 months	15 months ⁽¹⁾	5-7 years	10-13 years ⁽⁴⁾	14-16 years
Poliomyelitis								
Diphtheria (croup)								
Tetanus (lockjaw)								
Pertussis (whooping cough)								
Haemophilus Influenzae B (meningitis)								
Hepatitis B (jaundice)								
Pneumococcus ⁽¹⁾ 13 serotypes		 ⁽¹⁾						
Rotavirus ⁽²⁾								
Measles								
Mumps								
German measles (rubella)								
Meningococcus type C or ACWY ⁽³⁾ (meningitis)								
Human papilloma virus ⁽⁴⁾								

-  free
-  not free
-  combination vaccine: 1 injection

- (1) If the pregnancy lasted less than 37 weeks or the weight at birth was lower than 2.5 kilograms:
- An extra dose against pneumococcus is administered at the age of 12 weeks.
 - The vaccinations are brought forward from 15 months to 13 months.
- (2) The rotavirus vaccine costs about €12, with a doctor's prescription. Store in the refrigerator (2-8 °C). 2 or 3 doses are needed, depending on the brand.
- (3) The Superior Health Council recommends vaccination against meningococcal ACWY instead of just against meningococcal C. The ACWY vaccine costs about €53, with a doctor's prescription. Store in the refrigerator (2-8 °C).
- (4) 1st year of secondary education. 2 doses with an interval of 6 months.

Special points of attention:

Kind en Gezin (the Child and Family Agency) strongly recommends following the entire schedule, as proposed by the Superior Health Council of Belgium. Only the polio vaccination is legally mandatory.

In addition to the vaccines in the basic scheme, there are also other vaccines you can give for individual protection for your child, for example against meningococcus B, chickenpox and hepatitis A. You should consult your doctor for this.

For the administration of a vaccine, you can choose between the clinic of Kind en Gezin, your GP or paediatrician.