

## AUTHORISATION OF VACCINATORS IN TARANAKI PURSUANT TO CLAUSE 44A OF THE MEDICINES REGULATIONS 1984

### Rationale:

Vaccinator authorisation is a legal process which allows nurses and other registered health workers to administer vaccines (which are prescription medicines) for the purposes of an approved immunisation programme without requiring a prescription or standing order written by a medical practitioner. Vaccinator authorisations are pursuant to clause 44A of the Medicines Regulations 1984<sup>1</sup> and to the authorisation protocol outlined in the 2017 Immunisation Handbook<sup>2</sup>.

### Standard:

All applicants need to have attended, completed and passed a vaccinator training course that meets the current *Standards for Delivery of Vaccinator Training Courses* published by the Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC).

Authorisation is granted on the assumption that vaccinators will always have a current annual practising certificate and that all authorised vaccinators will work within their scope of practice.

All applicants need to also provide documentary evidence of being able to “carry out basic emergency techniques including resuscitation and the treatment of anaphylaxis” as outlined in Appendix 4 of the 2017 Immunisation Handbook<sup>2</sup>. The required minimum requirement is NZRC ‘Health Professional Responder, CORE Immediate – Adult and Child’.

Authorised vaccinators intending to continue vaccinating under section 44A of the Medicines Regulations 1984 need to reapply every two years before their authorisation expires and need to attend an update session (a specific education update for trained vaccinators (minimum of four hours) either by attending an education course or completing an online training programme) at least every two years.

### Scope:

Registered health professionals wishing to independently vaccinate using all or specific vaccines on the National Immunisation Schedule (the Schedule) and any other vaccine approved by a medical officer of health or the Director-General. This would not normally include travel vaccines.

<sup>1</sup> Medicines Regulations of 1984 (SR1984/143), section 44A (accessed 3 August 2017)  
<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/1984/0143/latest/DLM96579.html>

<sup>2</sup> Ministry of Health. 2017. Immunisation Handbook 2017. Wellington: Ministry of Health  
<http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/immunisation-handbook-2017>

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AUTHORISED BY: Medical Officer of Health		

## Taranaki DHB Flow Chart for Initial Authorised Vaccinator Application

Health  
Professional  
seeking initial  
Authorisation



### Vaccinator Authorisation - Written Evidence Requirements

1. Demonstrate that within the preceding 12 months you have attended, completed and passed a vaccinator training course (VTC) that meets the current Standards for Delivery of VTC's published by the Immunisation Advisory Centre.
2. An assessment of clinical practice as part of the VTC.
3. Provide evidence that you hold a current practising certificate.
4. Provide evidence of resuscitation certification equivalent to that set for NZRC 'Health Professional Responder, CORE Immediate – Adult and Child' within the last 2 years.



Written evidence of following requirements are sent to the P.A. for the Medical Officer of Health

See page 8



**Authorisation\* granted for two years from date of VTC.  
Applicant sent authorisation within 10 working days of receipt of their application.**

\*Please note that authorisation is granted on the assumption that vaccinators will always have a current annual practising certificate and that all authorised vaccinators will work within their scope of practice.

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# Taranaki DHB Flow Chart for Authorised Vaccinators (AVs) wishing Reauthorisation



- Vaccinator Reauthorisation - Written Evidence Requirements**
1. Provide evidence that you have attended a vaccinator update course that meets the current IMAC Vaccinator Update Course Standards during the last two years.
  2. Provide evidence of holding a current practising certificate.
  3. Provide a summary of your immunisation practice over the past 12 months which includes the type of practice, types of vaccinations given and other responsibilities related to immunisation.
  4. Provide evidence of resuscitation certification equivalent to that set for NZRC 'Health Professional Responder, CORE Immediate – Adult and Child' within the last 2 years.



**Written evidence of following requirements are sent to the P.A. for the Medical Officer of Health**

**See page 9**

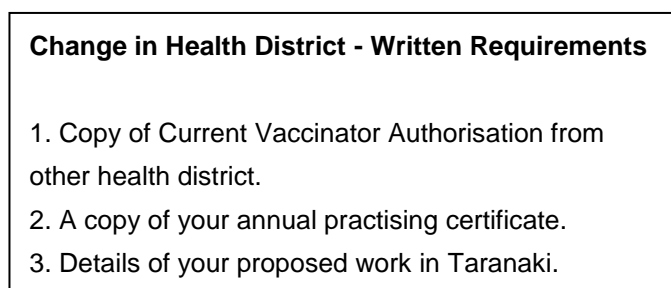
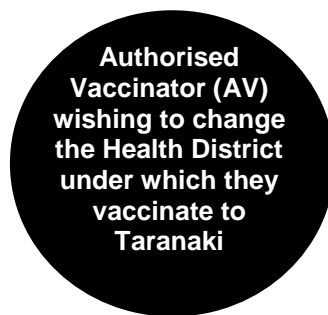


**Authorisation\* granted for two years from date of letter of re-authorisation.  
Applicant sent re-authorisation within 10 working days of receipt of their application.**

\* Please note that authorisation is granted on the assumption that vaccinators will always have a current annual practising certificate and that all authorised vaccinators will work within their scope of practice.

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## Taranaki DHB Flow Chart for Authorised Vaccinators (AVs) wishing to change the Health District under which they vaccinate to Taranaki



Written evidence of following requirements are sent to the P.A. for the Medical Officer of Health

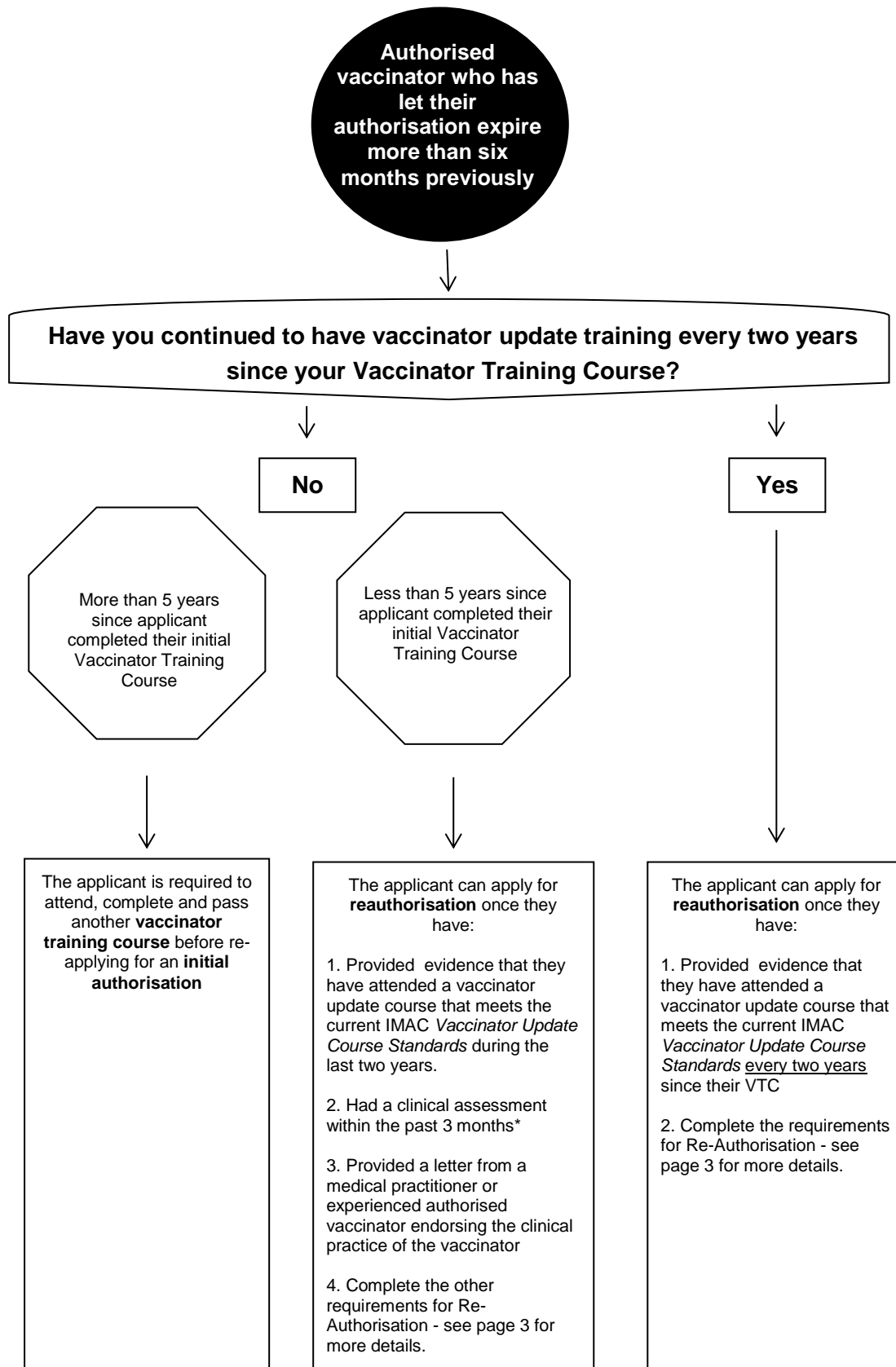


**Authorisation\* granted to the date that the current Vaccinator Authorisation expires.  
Applicant sent authorisation within 10 working days of receipt of their application.**

\* Please note that authorisation is granted on the assumption that vaccinators will always have a current annual practising certificate and that all authorised vaccinators will work within their scope of practice.

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## Taranaki DHB Flow Chart when authorisation has not been maintained

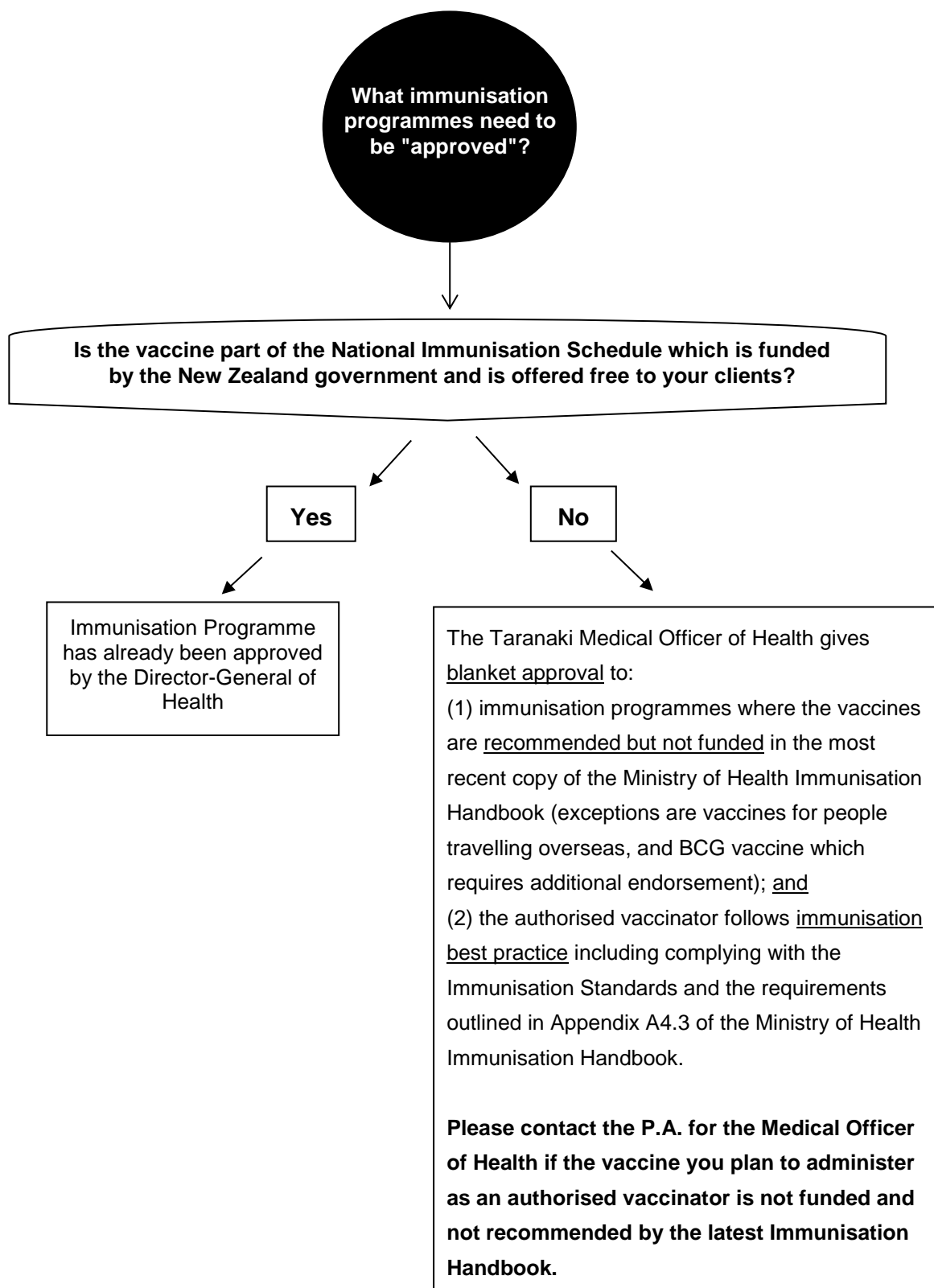


\* The clinical assessment can be carried out by the Immunisation Co-ordinator or another assessor approved by the Medical Officer of Health

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## Taranaki DHB Flow Chart for Approval of Local Immunisation Programmes

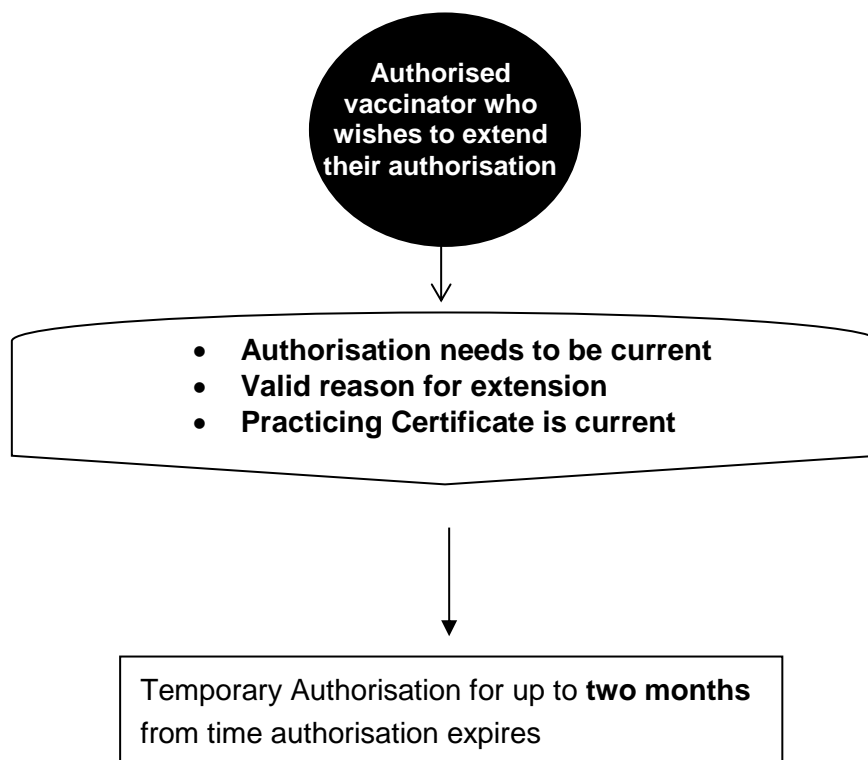
Vaccinators authorised under section 44A of the Medicines Regulations 1984 can only independently administer vaccines "for the purposes of an approved immunisation programme<sup>4</sup>."



<sup>4</sup> See the Ministry of Health document *Definition of an Approved Immunisation Programme* which is available from [www.health.govt.nz/our-work/preventative-health-wellness/immunisation](http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/preventative-health-wellness/immunisation) for more information.

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## Taranaki DHB Flow Chart for Temporary Authorisation



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**APPLICATION FOR  
INITIAL VACCINATOR AUTHORISATION**

To: Dr Jonathan Jarman  
Medical Officer of Health  
Public Health Unit  
Taranaki Base Hospital  
Private Bag 2016  
NEW PLYMOUTH

***Authorisation is being sought by:***

Name:.....

Employer:.....

Your Postal address:.....

Phone (Pvt).....(work).....

**Please find enclosed photocopies of:**

- Course certificate from a vaccinator training course (VTC) attended within the preceding 12 months
- Evidence of clinical assessment by an experienced authorised vaccinator as part of the VTC.
- Current Annual Practising Certificate
- Resuscitation certification equivalent to that set for NZRC 'Health Professional Responder, CORE Immediate – Adult and Child' within the last 2 years.

All of the above are requirements to complete this application

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**APPLICATION FOR  
RE-AUTHORISATION AS A VACCINATOR**

To: Dr Jonathan Jarman  
Medical Officer of Health  
Public Health Unit  
Taranaki Base Hospital  
Private Bag 2016  
NEW PLYMOUTH

**Re-authorisation is being sought by:**

Name:.....

Employer:.....

Your Postal address:.....

Phone (Pvt).....(work).....

**Please find enclosed photocopies of:**

- Evidence of attendance at a vaccinator update course that meets the current IMAC *Vaccinator Update Course Standards* completed within the preceding 24 months
- Current Annual Practising Certificate
- Summary of your immunisation practice over the past 12 months which includes the type of practice, types of vaccinations given and other responsibilities related to immunisation.
- Resuscitation certification equivalent to that set for NZRC 'Health Professional Responder, CORE Immediate – Adult and Child' within the last 2 years.

All of the above are requirements to complete this application

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) Vaccinator Endorsement<sup>5</sup>

**Please note: All previously-gazetted BCG vaccinators must complete BCG endorsement with their local Medical Officer of Health prior to 4 January 2019 in order to continue vaccinating.**

## Endorsement of new BCG vaccinators

To be endorsed as a new BCG vaccinator, the individual must apply to their local Medical Officer of Health and provide the following documented evidence that they:

1. Are a current authorised vaccinator
2. Have successfully completed a Ministry of Health-approved online BCG vaccination course
3. Have completed, under clinical supervision (by a currently approved BCG clinical assessor - see below for details), a minimum of five BCG vaccinations, and have been assessed as competent by the clinical supervisor
4. Have been nominated by their employer for endorsement as a BCG vaccinator.
5. BCG vaccinator endorsement is valid for two years from the completion of the BCG vaccinator training.

## Tuberculosis and BCG Online Course

The online course 'Tuberculosis and BCG' is now available through the Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC) both for those seeking to update their knowledge and as a requirement for BCG endorsement. The course takes 8 hours to complete and is followed by a clinical assessment component if not previously gazetted. There is a small charge for the course.

## Qualifying criteria for BCG Clinical Assessors

BCG clinical assessors must be approved by the Medical Officer of Health. To qualify for approval, the assessor must currently be an authorised vaccinator who is both BCG-endorsed and employed as a BCG vaccinator.

## Renewal of BCG vaccinator endorsement

To renew BCG vaccinator endorsement, the individual must apply to their local Medical Officer of Health prior to the expiry date and provide documented evidence that they:

1. Are a current authorised vaccinator, and
2. Have completed an online BCG vaccination update course [within the last two years].

It is the BCG vaccinator's professional responsibility to ensure they apply for regional endorsement.

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<sup>5</sup> Ministry of Health. Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) Vaccinator Endorsement. Available from:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/preventative-health-wellness/immunisation/immunisation-programme-decisions/bacillus-calmette-guerin-bcg-vaccinator-endorsement>

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## **BCG Vaccinator ceasing practise or practising in another region**

Endorsed BCG vaccinators are approved regionally by Medical Officers of Health and must notify their Medical Officer of Health if ceasing practice or no longer practising in the region. Individuals wishing to practise in another region must be approved beforehand by the Medical Officer of Health, and provide the new local Medical Officer of Health with:

1. Evidence of their current vaccinator authorisation and BCG endorsement in another health district, and
2. Details of their proposed work in the district.

The Medical Officer of Health is then to notify the Ministry of Health's Immunisation team of the cease/move so the BCG vaccinator register can be updated.

## **Ministry of Health BCG vaccinator register**

The Ministry of Health's central register of gazetted BCG vaccinators will be retired 4 January 2019. Any new or previously-gazetted BCG vaccinators who wish to continue beyond 4 January 2019 will need to be confirmed as BCG-endorsed authorised vaccinators and notified to us as such by a Medical Officer of Health. A new central Ministry register now captures all those BCG vaccinators notified to us at [immunisation@moh.govt.nz](mailto:immunisation@moh.govt.nz).

## **Access to BCG vaccine**

1. The funded vaccine can only be ordered by public health BCG clinics
2. Eligible patients seeking BCG vaccine are to be referred to DHB public health programmes.
3. The vaccine is only to be administered to babies and children aged 0-5 that meet the eligibility criteria as per the PHARMAC Schedule (see the [Health Ed website](#) for details).
4. Further information on both TB and the BCG vaccine is also available in the [Your Health - Tuberculosis](#) guide and on the Immunisation Advisory Centre website.

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