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After your child is immunised

Having your child immunised means you have made an important decision to protect him or her against one or more infectious diseases.

So that you will know what to expect after the vaccines have been given, this leaflet will give you some information about common side effects and what to do.



immunisation

the safest way to protect your child

This part tells you what to expect after your child is immunised with vaccines such as the:

- 5-in-1 vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib);
- 4-in-1 vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and polio;
- MenC (meningitis C) vaccine;
- Hib/MenC vaccine;
- pneumo vaccine against pneumococcal disease;
- flu vaccine; and
- most other vaccines.

Common side effects

Most children are well after these vaccines and have no side effects at all. But slight reactions are common. These can start within a few hours and your child may:

- have a raised temperature (over 37.5°C);
- seem unsettled;
- not want to eat much;
- have a sore arm or leg where the injection was given;
- have a small lump where the needle was put in and the area around it might also be slightly hot and red. This is normal and may last some weeks. It does not need any treatment.

These symptoms are generally mild, usually pass within a couple of days and you probably won't need to do anything about them.

This part tells you what to expect after your child is immunised with the MMR vaccine that protects against measles, mumps and rubella.

Common side effects after MMR

Most children are well after this injection and have no side effects, other than soreness where the injection was given, but the following symptoms are normal and fairly common:

- having a small lump where the needle was put in and the area around it might also be slightly hot and red;
- a raised temperature starting 7 to 11 days after the vaccine is given and lasting 2 to 3 days;
- a rash, which looks like measles, about 6 -10 days after the injection. This rash is not infectious;
- not wanting to eat much;
- about three weeks after the injection, 1 in 100 children develops a slight swelling on one or both sides of his or her neck. Your child is not infectious.

These symptoms usually pass within 2-3 days and you probably won't need to do anything about them.



Serious side effects can occur but are very rare. They usually happen a short time after having the injection. This is why you will be asked to stay in the GP practice with your child for a little while after the injection. If you are worried at any time after the injection, please contact your Practice Nurse, Health Visitor or GP.

Further information can be found in:

- *A guide to childhood immunisations for babies up to 13 months of age; and*
- *Pre-school immunisations - a guide to vaccinations at three years and four months of age.*

Both can be obtained from your Practice Nurse, Health Visitor or GP.

If your child has a raised temperature and appears unwell:

- give him or her paracetamol or ibuprofen liquid (it is important that you follow the instructions and dosage on the bottle);
- give him or her plenty to drink;
- make sure he or she is not over dressed or wrapped up in too many layers;
- check that the temperature of the room feels comfortable and not too warm (about 18 to 21°C);
- if your child's temperature stays high or you are worried, contact your Practice Nurse, Health Visitor or GP.

If you think your baby has had any other reaction to the vaccine and you are concerned about it, talk to your Practice Nurse, Health Visitor or GP.

Parents and carers can also report suspected side effects of vaccines and medicines through the Yellow Card Scheme.

You can do this on-line by visiting www.yellowcard.gov.uk
or by calling the Yellow Card hotline on Freephone 0808 100 3352
(Monday to Friday 10.00 to 14.00).

Do not give your child these medicines unless he or she has a raised temperature. They should not be given, either before or after vaccination, as a 'just in case' measure.

Remember. Never give medicines that contain aspirin to a child younger than 16 years of age.

If you are worried about your child, trust your instincts. Speak to your Practice Nurse, Health Visitor or GP, or call NHS Direct Wales on **0845 46 47**.

Immunisation is the safest way to protect your child against the diseases mentioned in this leaflet.

Where can I get more information?

You can speak to your Practice Nurse, Health Visitor or GP, or phone NHS Direct Wales on **0845 46 47**.

Visit www.nhs.uk/vaccinations

This leaflet is available on the Welsh Government immunisation website:

www.wales.gov.uk/immunisation

Additional copies are available from the Welsh Government Publications Centre by e-mail:

assembly-publications@wales.gsi.gov.uk
or by telephone on **029 2082 3683**
(Mon – Fri between 08.00 and 17.00).

Any queries about this leaflet can be addressed to:

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