



Vaccine Update # 475 – , Adolescent immunisation, Living without a functioning spleen: Translating guidelines into everyday care

Declining adolescent immunisation rates

In recent years, adolescent vaccination coverage rates have declined. Australian Immunisation Register data from 2025 shows 65% of eligible adolescents received the HPV vaccine, 69% their dTpa booster and 63% of eligible adolescents received the Men ACWY vaccine. This exposes adolescents to risks and complications associated with vaccine-preventable diseases, including human papillomavirus (HPV), pertussis, and meningococcal disease.

Adolescents are eligible to receive one dose of each of the following National Immunisation Program (NIP)-funded vaccines:

- HPV and dTpa (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis) in year 7
- MenACWY in year 10.

In WA, adolescent vaccines are primarily delivered via the School-based Immunisation Program.

If vaccination at school has been missed, young people remain eligible for catch-up until the age of 20 for dTpa and MenACWY, and 26 for HPV and can receive catch-up vaccines at their preferred immunisation provider.

WA Health is urging all immunisation providers to:

- review immunisation records and use reminder or recall systems for patients who may be overdue for their age-appropriate vaccines

- [discuss adolescent immunisation](#) with teens and their parents
- offer opportunistic vaccination to eligible individuals.

Upcoming webinar: Living without a functioning spleen: Translating guidelines into everyday care

Patients living without a functioning spleen are at lifelong risk of severe, rapidly progressive infection, including overwhelming post-splenectomy infection (OPSI) and sepsis. Despite well-established guidelines, many patients in the community remain unrecognised, incompletely vaccinated, or have not received appropriate antibiotic prophylaxis.

General practitioners play a central role in identifying these patients, coordinating preventative care, and providing early safety-netting. This practical, case-based webinar is designed to support GPs and other healthcare providers to confidently apply current Australian recommendations and integrate Spleen Australia into routine primary care workflows.

Key details

Date: 17 March

Time: 3-5pm

Format: 90-minute webinar + live Q&A

CPD: 1.5 CPD hour (certificate provided)

To register:

- Go to www.cpd.inovating.com.au
- Login - if you previously used CPD HCP you can use the same email and password. If you have not registered for an Inovating event in the past, click on “Register here” and complete your details.
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- Click on “Register”

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