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**HSS(MD) 35/2006**

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Dear Colleague

**CHANGES TO THE CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME –  
Cover Letter for Childhood Immunisation Information Pack for Health Professionals**

You will be aware that changes are being made to the routine Childhood Immunisation Programme in Northern Ireland, refer to Chief Professionals' letters dated 8<sup>th</sup> February 2006 (HSS(MD)2/2006) and 14<sup>th</sup> July 2006 (HSS(MD)14/2006). These changes are being made following the recommendation of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

From 4<sup>th</sup> September 2006, the following changes will be introduced:

- Pneumococcal (PCV) vaccine (brand name: Prevenar) will be introduced to the routine childhood immunisation programme and offered at 2, 4 and 15 months of age;
- the schedule for Meningitis C and Hib vaccines will be modified to offer two doses of Men C vaccine, one dose at 3 months and one dose at 4 months, with a booster dose offered at 12 months. A Hib booster dose will be introduced at 12 months. The booster dose will be given as a combined Hib/ Men C vaccine (brand name: Menitorix). This schedule requires an additional immunisation visit at 12 months of age.
- A pneumococcal vaccination catch-up programme will be carried out for children aged under two years.

To support the introduction of these vaccines and implementation of the immunisation programme, DHSSPS in conjunction with the Health Promotion Agency, have developed a completely new and updated range of information materials. These materials include information leaflets for parents and young people covering all the immunisations given from birth to school leaving.

