

Alert	<p>Ensure the pre-filled syringe containing the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis toxoid is mixed with the vial containing the HIB component of the vaccine.</p> <p>Prophylactic administration of paracetamol at the time of, or immediately after, vaccination to reduce the risk of fever is not recommended.</p> <p>However, if an infant has a fever of > 38.5°C following vaccination or has pain at the injection site and is miserable, paracetamol can be given.</p> <p>The dose of paracetamol is 15 mg/kg/dose, up to a maximum dose of 60 mg/kg per day in four divided doses.</p>
Indication	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Primary immunisation against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, hepatitis B, poliomyelitis and <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type B in infants at 6 weeks/2 months, 4 and 6 months of age. 2. Catch-up vaccination schedules in children < 10 years of age.
Action	<p>Combined diphtheria and tetanus toxoids, acellular pertussis antigens, hepatitis B (recombinant) surface antigen, inactivated polio virus and adsorbed conjugated <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b polysaccharide. Induces the production of antibodies against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, hepatitis B, poliomyelitis and <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type B infection.</p>
Drug Type	Vaccine.
Trade Name	INFANRIX hexa
Presentation	Pellets in a vial with suspension for injection in a pre-filled syringe.
Dosage/Interval	0.5 mL
Route	IM
Preparation/Dilution	See below
Administration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. May administer oral sucrose 2 minutes prior to injection (observe local pain policy). 2. Shake well the pre-filled syringe. 3. Add its contents to the vial of Hib pellet and shake until pellet is completely dissolved. 4. Administer 0.5 ml of reconstituted suspension by intramuscular injection (IMI) to the anterolateral aspect of the thigh (slowly to reduce pain). 5. Administer on the opposite limb from other concurrently administered vaccines (e.g. Prevenar 13).
Monitoring	<p>Observe for 15 minutes after vaccination for any Adverse Event Following Immunisation (AEFI).</p> <p>Pain: Refer to local pain relief policy.</p> <p>Apnoea and bradycardia in premature infants for up to 48 hours.</p> <p>Infants with a history of febrile convulsions should be closely followed up as such adverse events may occur within 2 to 3 days post-vaccination.</p>
Contraindications	<p>Anaphylaxis following a previous dose of any DTPa vaccine.</p> <p>Hypersensitivity to any vaccine component.</p>
Precautions	<p>Significant acute illness or temperature greater than 38.5°C – postpone vaccine until neonatologist approves.</p> <p>If the infant has experienced an encephalopathy of unknown aetiology occurring within 7 days after previous vaccination with a pertussis containing vaccine.</p> <p>The following reactions to a previous dose may preclude further doses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Convulsions within 3 days. - Persistent, severe, inconsolable screaming or crying for three or more hours within 48 hours. - Unexplained temperature > 40.5°C within 48 hours. <p>Immunosuppressed patients</p> <p>Thrombocytopenia or bleeding disorders.</p> <p>Children who have had a hypotonic/hyporesponsive episode (HHE) within 48 hours of vaccination with a DTPa containing vaccine should receive further doses as advised by the Adverse Events after Immunisation Clinics.</p>
Drug Interactions	<p>Tetanus Immune Globulin or Diphtheria Antitoxin, if used, should be given at a separate site, with a separate needle and syringe.</p> <p>Should not be given to infants or children on anticoagulant therapy unless the potential benefit clearly outweighs the risk of administration.</p> <p>Immunosuppressive therapies, including irradiation, antimetabolites, alkylating agents, cytotoxic</p>

	drugs and corticosteroids (used in greater than physiologic doses), may reduce the immune response to vaccines.
Adverse Reactions	Common: Pain, inflammation, redness, injection site mass persisting for up to a few days. Uncommon: Headache, fever, lethargy, malaise, myalgia. Rare: Anaphylaxis, urticaria and peripheral neuropathy. Any serious or unexpected adverse event following immunisation should be reported promptly. Providers should use clinical judgment in deciding which adverse events to report and parents/carers should be encouraged to notify the immunisation service provider or health authorities of any untoward medical occurrence that follows immunisation. Each State/Territory has its own contact details for notification. Contact telephone number for NSW Public Health Unit is 1300 066 055.
Compatibility	
Incompatibility	Do not mix with any other vaccines in the same syringe.
Stability	After reconstitution, the vaccine should be injected promptly. However, the vaccine is stable for up to eight hours at room temperature.
Storage	Store between 2 and 8°C. Do NOT freeze. Discard if the vaccine has been frozen. Protect from light.
Special Comments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Do not give INFANRIX hexa at birth. Preterm infants should be vaccinated according to their chronological age from birth. Immune response to some Hib conjugate vaccines has been reduced in infants born prematurely. The first dose of INFANRIX hexa can be given at 6 weeks of age due to the high morbidity and occasional mortality associated with pertussis in very young infants. If the first dose is given at 6 weeks of age, the next scheduled doses should still be at 4 and 6 months. Paracetamol may be prescribed (15 mg/kg/dose) for administration at 4 hourly intervals after immunisation (maximum of 4 doses in a 24 hour period) for a fever > 38.5°C or significant pain if the child is miserable. Prophylactic administration of paracetamol at the time of, or immediately after, vaccination to reduce the risk of fever is not routinely recommended, with the exception of children < 2 years of age receiving meningococcal B vaccine and whole cell pertussis (DTPa). The vastus lateralis muscle in the anterolateral thigh is the recommended site for IM vaccination in infants < 12 months of age. The deltoid muscle or ventrogluteal area is the recommended site for IM vaccination in children > 12 months of age. Children with congenital limb malformation(s) should receive their vaccines in an unaffected limb where possible. The ventrogluteal area can also be considered. NSW Health has provided free antenatal pertussis vaccinations for every woman during every pregnancy. There is currently no evidence to suggest infants require an extra DTPa vaccine at 18 months of age if their mother received antenatal pertussis vaccine. Interruption of the recommended schedule with a delay between doses should not interfere with the final immunity achieved with Infanrix hexa. Refer to The Australian Immunisation Handbook for catch-up schedule.
Evidence summary	As per NMF Consensus Group. Refer to reference manual or electronic version.
References	As per NMF Consensus Group. Refer to reference manual or electronic version.

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