



March 2017

TO THE GENERAL PRACTITIONER

Dear Doctor

RE: Cochlear Implants and Pneumococcal Disease

Your patient is under the care of the Southern Cochlear Implant Programme.

We routinely recommend that all cochlear implant recipients be vaccinated against **pneumococcal disease** and would be grateful if you could make an appointment to discuss this with the patient and/or their family.

Guidelines for administration of the relevant vaccine can be found in the “Immunisation Handbook 2014, 3rd Edition, December 2016”, pages 401-432.

We draw your attention Table 15.5 on page 420-421. Children and adults with cochlear implants fall in to the high-risk category and should be vaccinated.

In addition it is also recommended that cochlear implant recipients receive a **Hib vaccination (Section 6.5.4, p. 181)** and an **Influenza vaccination (Table 10.3, p. 291)**.

Please note that the Southern Cochlear Implant Programme does not fund vaccinations; funding is per the Ministry of Health Handbook.

Please feel free to contact our programme if you have any questions or concerns.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Neil Heslop'. The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Neil Heslop, MNZAS-CCC
General Manager
Southern Cochlear Implant Programme