

CHILD IMMUNISATION

Description

- Immunisation strengthens your child's immune system to help fight off germs that may cause diseases like polio, measles, hepatitis B, diphtheria, tuberculosis (TB) and meningitis.
- Newborn babies and children up to the age of five years need to be immunised.
- Note: Parents are expected to ensure their children are immunised. A detailed record of immunisation may be requested when applying for school registration and social grants.

Steps to follow

- Visit your local clinic or medical practitioner.
- Fill in a form/card on arrival at the clinic if you are a first time visitor. Previous visitors should bring along their cards.
- Notify the nursing sister of your child's age and the child's history of immunisations.
- The nursing sister will take your child's weight, length and the head circumference to determine if your child is growing at the expected rate.
- The child will be immunised according to their age.
- You will be advised on how to handle the child's reaction to the vaccine (they sometimes develop a fever from the vaccine and it is advisable to inform the nursing sister if your child is allergic to eggs).
- You will then be given the date for the next immunisation.

Legal framework

There is no legal framework. While there is no legal framework parents are expected to ensure their children are immunised. A detailed record of immunisation may be requested when applying for school registration or social grants.

Service standard

The immunisation is done immediately at the clinic.

Cost

The service is free at state owned clinics and hospitals. Private medical facilities may charge a minimum fee.

Forms to complete

There are no forms to complete.

Note: A card will be issued to you by the hospital after birth when you are discharged. The card has a "Road to Health Chart" that indicates when the child must have the next immunisation.