Dear Student,

**Information to assist you with Immunisation Compliance**
**For Clinical Placement within a NSW Public Health Facility**

**PLEASE READ!**

The following information is supplied to you to ensure that you provide the correct information regarding your immunisation history/status when being screened to attend a clinical placement within a NSW public health facility. Compliance with NSW Health policies regarding immunisation is mandatory for all local, national and international students enrolled at both the undergraduate and postgraduate level.

Being fully immunised is a mandatory requirement for all employees of NSW Health as well as all categories of students entering NSW health facilities.

The three classifications in ClinConnect relating to a students’ immunisation status are:

The following information is provided to you to assist your GP to administer the correct immunisation and complete your vaccination card as per NSW Health requirements. It is your responsibility to ensure that a comprehensive review of your current immunisation status is conducted; do not rely on your immunisation records as an infant or child to demonstrate your present-day level of immunity as immunity levels can change over time.

It is best to commence an immunisation status review by your GP obtaining baseline serology to determine your current level of immunity to Hepatitis B, Measles, Mumps and Rubella and Varicella (Chicken Pox). Most students would have had these immunisations as an infant or child. Based on these results, some students may require a booster or a further course of immunisations whilst others may require no intervention at all. Your GP and staff health will discuss this further with you.

**Adult Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (Whooping Cough) dTpa**

- **Student Instructions:** You must provide evidence of one injection of Adult Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (Whooping Cough) in the last 10-years. If administered more than 10-years ago, or is due to expire during your degree, you will require a booster.
- **GP Instructions:** Do not give ADT or DT; give Boostrix, Boostrix IPV, Adacel or Adacel Polio. You must also include the ‘batch number’, ‘date of injection’, ‘providers name’, ‘signature’ and ‘practice stamp’ in the column marked for this purpose to validate the entry.
- **Serology results for this immunisation are NOT ACCEPTED.**

**Hepatitis B**

- **Student instructions:** When immunisation documentation is presented for review, you must have documentary evidence of having had one of the three (3) vaccinations administered to be assigned
‘temporary’ status. Following the Hepatitis B course or if you simply require a booster you will be required to provide serology to demonstrate the level of immunity obtained. This must be recorded as a numerical value - the phrase “positive”, “immune” or “detected” is not acceptable. Serology can be obtained four weeks after the final dose of the Hepatitis B vaccine. If you are unable to provide an initial history of a primary Hepatitis B course, obtain serology to determine your current level of immunity. If serology indicates you are what is called a ‘non-responder’, your GP may suggest a further course of Hepatitis B. Contact the CPU immediately as there may be other options available to you based on advice from NSW Health; remember to supply all documentation to the CPU to enable a comprehensive review in order to provide advice.

- **GP Instructions:** The following information must be recorded as evidence of a full Hepatitis B course; ‘batch number’, ‘date of injection’, ‘providers name’, ‘signature’ and ‘practice stamp’ to validate the entry and following the completion of the course serology - note serology must be recorded as a numerical value; not ‘positive’, ‘negative’ or ‘immune’. If the student is unable to provide a comprehensive history of Hep B vaccinations, evidence of current immunity is also acceptable.

# Students can complete a full course of Hepatitis B within 6-months. Refer to NSW Health Policy Directive 2011_005 page 9 of 25 point 3.4.


**Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR)**

- **Student Instructions:** You must provide evidence of two doses of MMR (one month apart). If administered when an infant or child include the baseline serology the GP obtained when he/she commenced your immunisation review. If any serology is ‘negative’, ‘low positive’ or ‘equivocal’ you may require a booster based on the interpretation of the results of the company which conducted the serology review – refer to the notes section of the serology report and provide this at an on campus verification session.

- **GP Instructions:** Ensure that the Rubella titre level is expressed as a ‘numerical’ value and provide the student with the pathology report to present at a verification session as there is no one titre level which is universally accepted in Australia which demonstrates immunity. The pathology report will provide further clarification for staff health to make this assessment; Measles and Mumps can be recorded as ‘Detected’, ‘Immune’ or ‘Not Detected’. Each vaccination must have the following information assigned to validate the entry; ‘batch number’, ‘date of injection’, ‘providers name’, ‘signature’ and ‘practice stamp’.

**Varicella (Chicken Pox)**

- **Student Information:** You must provide evidence of two vaccinations (one month apart), or evidence of positive Varicella serology or evidence of a history of having had chicken pox.

- **GP instructions:** If students have been injected with Zostavax they do not require the second dose of varicella as it is 40 times stronger than the varicella injection. Each vaccination must have the following information assigned to validate the entry; ‘batch number’, ‘date of injection’, ‘providers
name’, ‘signature’ and ‘practice stamp’ or provide evidence of the student having positive varicella serology or confirm and record a history of chicken pox.

Tuberculosis Screening

- **Student Information:** When attending a bulk compliance session you must provide a completed ‘Form 2’ and ‘Form 3’. If you have had a BCG as a child, ensure the GP records the approximate year that your BCG was administered - there should be a visible scar on your left shoulder/deltoid. If you have been in a country associated with a high incidence of TB (list of countries included in this information pack), for a period of more than three-months, you will be required to have a Mantoux test and provide the result. If the result shows a reaction greater than 8mm **without having had a BCG** or 10mm **having had a BCG** you will be required to have a chest X-Ray. If your first Mantoux result was ‘negative’ **having evidence of having had a BCG**, you will be required to have what is called a “two-step Mantoux”, i.e. another Mantoux test within one-month of screening and/or four-week’s after the administration of a ‘live’ vaccine to ensure the first result was not a ‘false-negative’. This can be performed at the student medical centre in the Wentworth Building at USYD. ‘Quantiferon Gold’ serology is not accepted to demonstrate immunity to tuberculosis due to its potential inaccuracy.

- **GP Instructions:** Live vaccines such as MMR and Varicella should be given 1-month after a Mantoux test as they can have an effect on the TST reading. Please record all TB screening on the red immunisation card and any further investigations (if required) such as CXR results along with signing and providing your practice stamp to validate the entry.

Final Advice to students

- You should commence an immunisation review immediately.
- The above immunisation advice is based on NSW Health Policy Directive 2011_005.
- Student verification video’s (produced by HETI) to assist with what it is you are required to present are accessed from this URL [http://www.heti.nsw.gov.au/verification](http://www.heti.nsw.gov.au/verification)

Please review this information carefully as it has been provided to assist you to ensure that you get immunisation screening right *the first time*. This process of review is required to ensure you are safe whilst on clinical placement and patients are protected.

Remember, an immunisation card correctly completed as per NSW Health guidelines will be your permanent record as an adult, used as a baseline for all future immunisation screenings and will used when seeking employment within a NSW Health facility.