



Date: 26 April 2016

The NSW Immunisation Specialist Service (NSWISS) launch

Venue: The Children's Hospital at Westmead

Time/date: 11 am on Wednesday 27 April

This new service will provide a drop- in immunisation clinic, an immunisation specialist clinic and an 1800 telephone advice service.

"The Children's Hospital at Westmead sees some of the most unwell children with chronic medical problems in the state", said A/ Prof Nick Wood, paediatrician and researcher, who will lead the new clinic. "These children are at high risk of severe disease and may require intensive care, but many diseases are preventable with vaccines."

" In this new service parents can ensure that their children are up to date with their vaccines and thus protected by dropping into the service either during scheduled hospital visits, which is very convenient, or make a booking to catch up or seek advice."

"We know that one way to protect these kids against flu is to vaccinate their parents and siblings, so they don't infect the child with the chronic illness. This service offers parents and siblings the chance to "do their part" by giving them flu vaccine at the same time as the patient is being vaccinated."

For parents who are concerned about vaccine side effects or possible adverse events or for some children who cannot be vaccinated in the community, in depth consultation with a specialist paediatrician and vaccination under medical supervision is available.

For other children and young people who have experienced an adverse event following immunisation, the clinic offers in depth assessment and management. Vaccination is under close supervision and there is personalised follow up by telephone. Healthcare providers in the community and especially in rural regions can take advantage of our telephone advice line 1800 NSWISS and, if required, a Telehealth consultation is available. The service also participates in a national active vaccine safety surveillance system – called AusVaxSafety.

"It is important to ensure high vaccine coverage and safe vaccination amongst the most vulnerable children and this new service will play an important role in protecting our kids and families" said A/Prof Wood.

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