

Immunisation

HSE *Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland* are regularly updated with online only updates on the RCPI website:

<https://www.rcpi.ie/Healthcare-Leadership/NIAC/Immunisation-Guidelines-for-Ireland>

Check Chapter 3 and 5a: *Immunisation of immunocompromised persons and COVID-19* to ensure you have the most up to date guidance.

NB: Ideally give required vaccinations at least **two weeks, and preferably 4 weeks or more, before splenectomy.**

For **emergency splenectomy** or if prior vaccination is overlooked or incomplete, administration at least **two weeks after** splenectomy is recommended.

However, if waiting until 2 weeks post surgery (to optimise immune response to vaccine) take care that vaccination is not missed entirely, especially if the patient is being discharged in the interim.

If concerned that the patient may not present to the GP for vaccination or for any other reason, vaccination prior to discharge may merit consideration, even if it is before the required 14 day gap.

In general, wait at least 3 months after **immunosuppressive chemotherapy or radiotherapy** (or give two weeks before such treatment).

Where a patient has had a splenectomy in the past, and has not received the required vaccines at the time, they should be immunised at the earliest possible opportunity.

When the patient is being sent home, make sure the **GP is fully informed** about any vaccines required, and the date on which they are due.

A **patient information leaflet** is also available from the link

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/splenectomy-leaflet-and-card>

Recommended additional vaccines for adults with asplenia & hyposplenia.

Please check [chapter 3](#) HSE Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland to ensure you have the most up to date guidance on recommended additional vaccines for adults with functional or anatomical asplenia & hyposplenia.

Check routine immunisation from birth and boosters have been given

Visit <https://www.rcpi.ie/Healthcare-Leadership/NIAC/Immunisation-Guidelines-for-Ireland> for more information.