

AUTHORISATION OF VACCINATORS IN TARANAKI PURSUANT TO CLAUSE 44A OF THE MEDICINES REGULATIONS 1984

Rationale:

Vaccinator authorisation is a legal process which allows nurses and other registered health workers to administer vaccines (which are prescription medicines) for the purposes of an approved immunisation programme without requiring a prescription or standing order written by a medical practitioner. Vaccinator authorisations are pursuant to clause 44A of the Medicines Regulations 1984¹ and to the authorisation protocol outlined in the Immunisation Handbook 2020². There is also a Provisional Authorisation process as part of the COVID-19 response which is separate to full authorisation by a Medical Officer of health. Provisionally authorised vaccinators who wish to continue to vaccinate after June 2022 will be required to transition to become a fully authorised vaccinator.

Standard:

All applicants need to have attended, completed and passed a vaccinator training course that meets the current *Standards for Delivery of Vaccinator Training Courses* published by the Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC).

Authorisation is granted on the assumption that vaccinators will always have a current annual practising certificate and that all authorised vaccinators will work within their scope of practice. All applicants need to also provide documentary evidence of being able to "carry out basic emergency techniques including resuscitation and the treatment of anaphylaxis" as outlined in Appendix 4.2 of the 2020 Immunisation Handbook².

Authorised vaccinators intending to continue vaccinating under section 44A of the Medicines Regulations 1984 need to reapply every two years before their authorisation expires and need to attend an update session (a specific education update for trained vaccinators, minimum of four hours, either in person or online) at least every two years.

Scope:

Registered health professionals wishing to independently vaccinate using all or specific vaccines on the National Immunisation Schedule (the Schedule) and any other vaccine approved by a medical officer of health or the Director-General. This would not normally include travel vaccines.

¹ Medicines Regulations of 1984 (SR1984/143), section 44A (accessed 3 August 2017)

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/1984/0143/latest/DLM96579.html>

² Ministry of Health. 2020. Immunisation Handbook 2020. Wellington: Ministry of Health [Immunisation Handbook 2020](https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/immunisation-handbook-2020) ([health.govt.nz](https://www.health.govt.nz))

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Taranaki DHB Flow Chart for Initial Authorised Vaccinator Application



- Vaccinator Authorisation - Written Evidence Requirements**
1. Demonstrate that within the preceding 24 months you have attended, completed and passed a vaccinator training course (VTC) that meets the current Standards for Delivery of VTC's published by the Immunisation Advisory Centre.
 2. An assessment of clinical practice as part of the VTC.
 3. Provide evidence that you hold a current practising certificate from your registration authority.
 4. Provide evidence of resuscitation certification equivalent to that outlined in Appendix 4.2 of the 2020 Immunisation Handbook.



Written evidence of following requirements are sent to the P.A. for the Medical Officer of Health

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**Authorisation* granted for two years from date of VTC.
Applicant sent authorisation within 10 working days of receipt of their application.**

*Please note that authorisation is granted on the assumption that vaccinators will always have a current annual practising certificate and that all authorised vaccinators will work within their scope of practice.

Taranaki DHB Flow Chart for Authorised Vaccinators (AVs) wishing Reauthorisation



- Vaccinator Reauthorisation - Written Evidence Requirements**
1. Provide evidence that you have attended a vaccinator update course that meets the current IMAC Vaccinator Update Course Standards during the last two years.
 2. Provide evidence of holding a current practising certificate.
 3. Provide a summary of your immunisation practice over the past 12 months which includes the type of practice, types of vaccinations given and other responsibilities related to immunisation.
 4. Provide evidence of resuscitation certification equivalent to that outlined in Appendix 4.2 of the 2020 Immunisation Handbook.



Written evidence of following requirements are sent to the P.A. for the Medical Officer of Health
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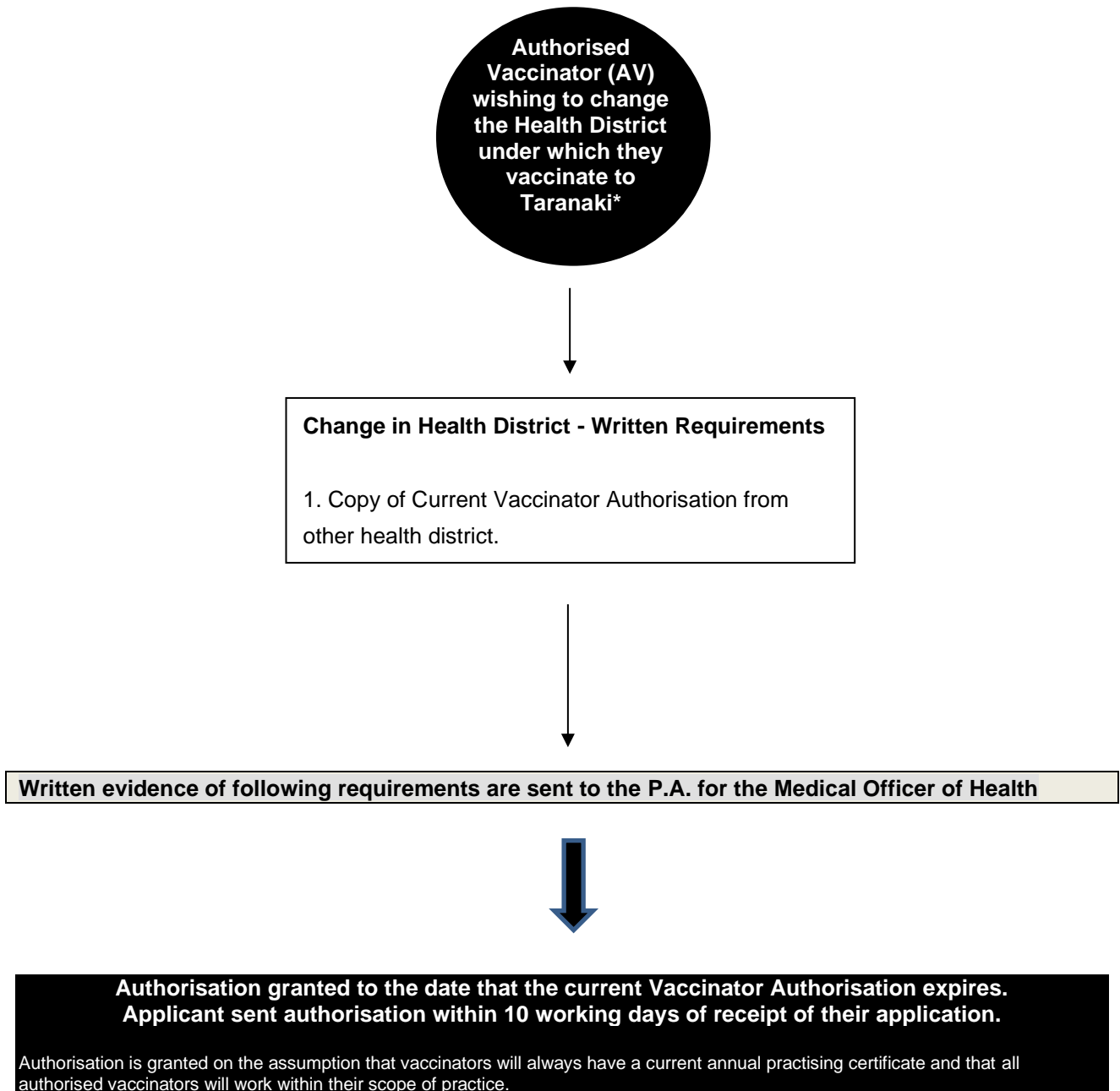


**Authorisation* granted for two years from date of letter of re-authorisation.
 Applicant sent re-authorisation within 10 working days of receipt of their application.**

* Please note that authorisation is granted on the assumption that vaccinators will always have a current annual practising certificate and that all authorised vaccinators will work within their scope of practice.

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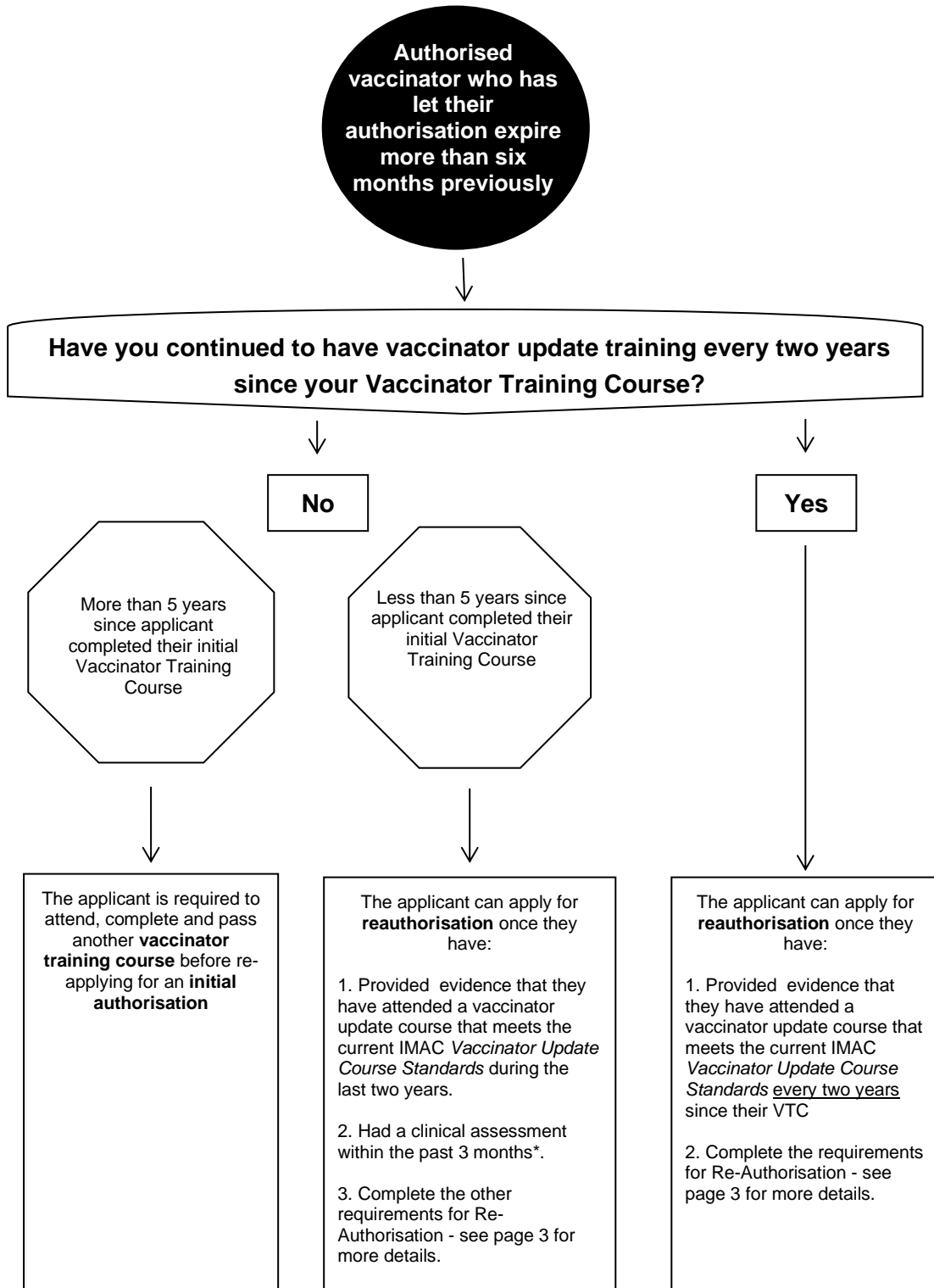
Taranaki DHB Flow Chart for Authorised Vaccinators (AVs) wishing to change the Health District under which they vaccinate to Taranaki



*Please note: All authorised vaccinators are approved to vaccinate anywhere in New Zealand through until June 2022 as part of the COVID-19 response.

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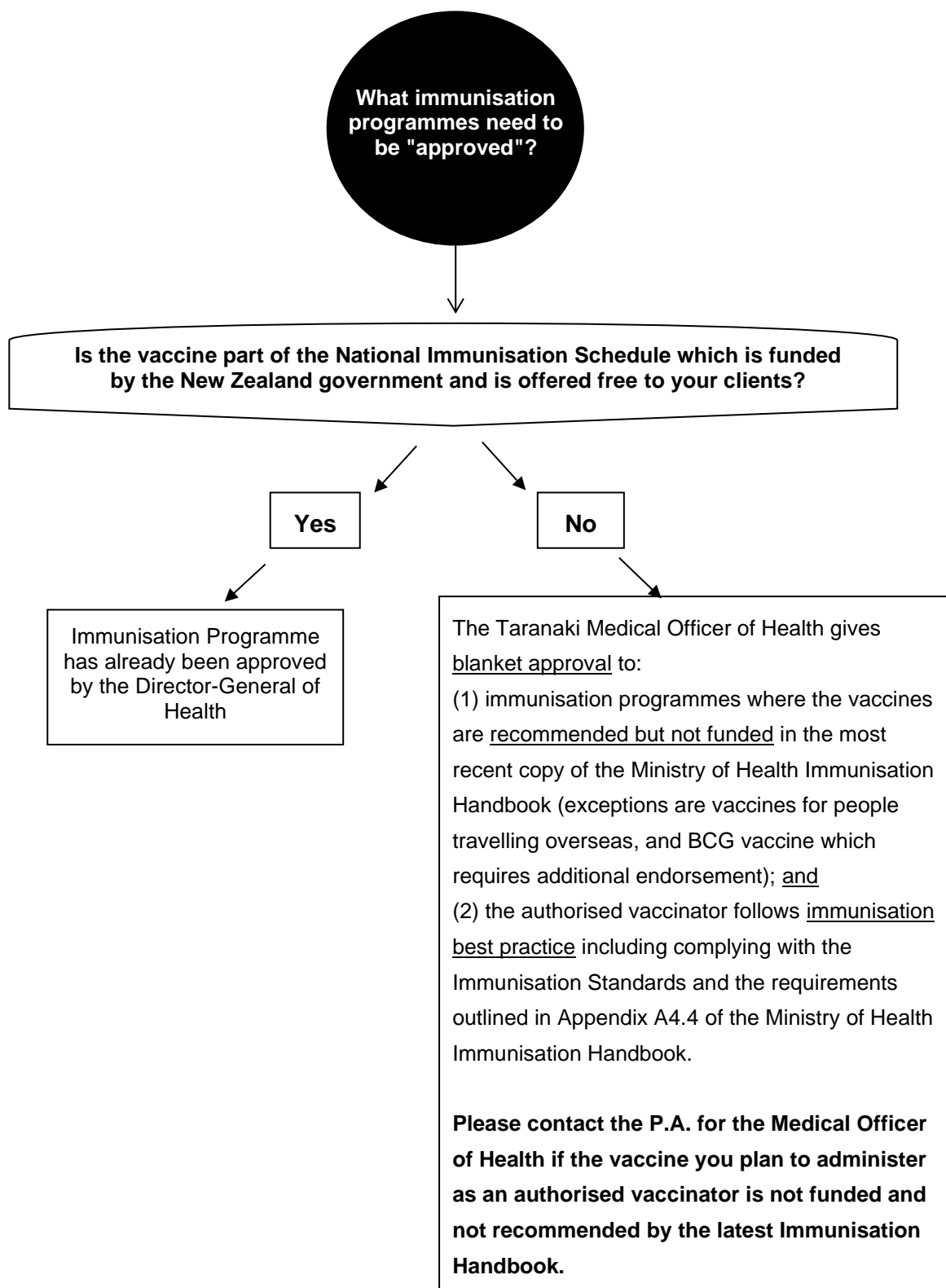
Taranaki DHB Flow Chart when authorisation has not been maintained



* The clinical assessment can be carried out by the Immunisation Co-ordinator or another assessor approved by the Medical Officer of Health

Taranaki DHB Flow Chart for Approval of Local Immunisation Programmes

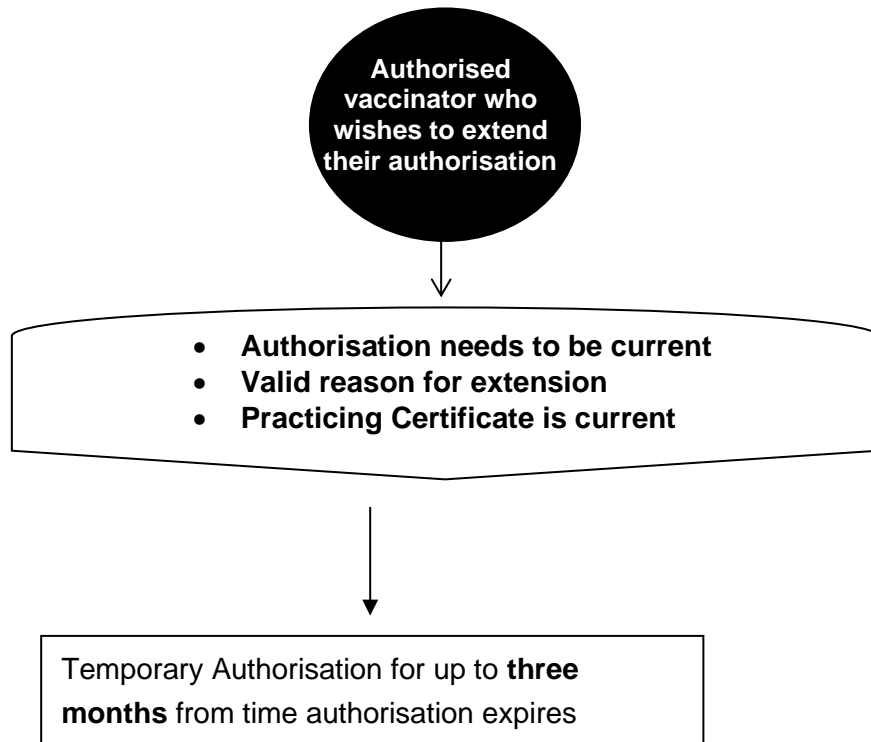
Vaccinators authorised under section 44A of the Medicines Regulations 1984 can only independently administer vaccines "for the purposes of an approved immunisation programme⁴."



⁴ See the Ministry of Health document *Definition of an Approved Immunisation Programme* which is available from www.health.govt.nz/our-work/preventative-health-wellness/immunisation for more information.

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Taranaki DHB Flow Chart for Temporary Authorisation



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**APPLICATION FOR
INITIAL VACCINATOR AUTHORISATION**

To: Dr Jonathan Jarman
Medical Officer of Health
Public Health Unit
Taranaki Base Hospital
Private Bag 2016
NEW PLYMOUTH

Email: TDHBPUBLICHEALTH@tdhb.org.nz

Authorisation is being sought by:

Name:.....

Employer:.....

Your Postal address:.....

Phone (Pvt).....(work).....

Please find enclosed photocopies of:

- Course certificate from a vaccinator training course (VTC) attended within the preceding 24 months
- Evidence of clinical assessment by an experienced authorised vaccinator as part of the VTC.
- Current Annual Practising Certificate
- Resuscitation certification equivalent to that outlined in Appendix 4.2 of the 2020 Immunisation Handbook

All of the above are requirements to complete this application

Signed: _____
Applicant

Date: _____

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**APPLICATION FOR
RE-AUTHORISATION AS A VACCINATOR**

To: Dr Jonathan Jarman
Medical Officer of Health
Public Health Unit
Taranaki Base Hospital
Private Bag 2016
NEW PLYMOUTH

Email: TDHBPUBLICHEALTH@tdhb.org.nz

Re-authorisation is being sought by:

Name:.....

Employer:.....

Your Postal address:.....

Phone (Pvt).....(work).....

Please find enclosed photocopies of:

- Evidence of attendance at a vaccinator update course that meets the current IMAC *Vaccinator Update Course Standards* completed within the preceding 24 months
- Current Annual Practicing Certificate
- Summary of your immunisation practice over the past 12 months which includes the type of practice, types of vaccinations given and other responsibilities related to immunisation.
- Resuscitation certification equivalent to that outlined in Appendix 4.2 of the 2020 Immunisation Handbook

All of the above are requirements to complete this application

Signed: _____
Applicant

Date: _____

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Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) Vaccinator Endorsement⁵

Endorsement of new BCG vaccinators

To be endorsed as a new BCG vaccinator, the individual must apply to their local Medical Officer of Health and provide the following documented evidence that they:

1. Are a current authorised vaccinator
2. Have successfully completed a Ministry of Health-approved online BCG vaccination course
3. Have completed, under clinical supervision (by a currently approved BCG clinical assessor - see below for details), a minimum of five BCG vaccinations, and have been assessed as competent by the clinical supervisor
4. Have been nominated by their employer for endorsement as a BCG vaccinator.
5. BCG vaccinator endorsement is valid for two years from the completion of the BCG vaccinator training.

Tuberculosis and BCG Online Course

The online course 'Tuberculosis and BCG' is now available through the Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC) both for those seeking to update their knowledge and as a requirement for BCG endorsement. The course takes 8 hours to complete and is followed by a clinical assessment component if not previously BCG-endorsed. There is a small charge for the course.

Qualifying criteria for BCG Clinical Assessors

BCG clinical assessors must be approved by the Medical Officer of Health. To qualify for approval, the assessor must currently be an authorised vaccinator who is both BCG-endorsed and employed as a BCG vaccinator.

Renewal of BCG vaccinator endorsement

To renew BCG vaccinator endorsement, the individual must apply to their local Medical Officer of Health prior to the expiry date and provide documented evidence that they:

1. Are a current authorised vaccinator, and
2. Have completed an online BCG vaccination update course within the last two years.

⁵ Ministry of Health. Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) Vaccinator Endorsement. Available from:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/preventative-health-wellness/immunisation/immunisation-programme-decisions/bacillus-calmette-guerin-bcg-vaccinator-endorsement>

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BCG Vaccinator ceasing practise or practising in another region

Endorsed BCG vaccinators are approved regionally by Medical Officers of Health and must notify their Medical Officer of Health if ceasing practice or no longer practising in the region. Individuals wishing to practise in another region must be approved beforehand by the Medical Officer of Health, and provide the new local Medical Officer of Health with:

1. Evidence of their current vaccinator authorisation and BCG endorsement in another health district, and
2. Details of their proposed work in the district.

Access to BCG vaccine

1. The funded vaccine can only be ordered by public health nurse BCG clinics
2. Eligible patients seeking BCG vaccine are to be referred to the Taranaki DHB public health nurse team.
3. BCG eligibility criteria as defined in Sections 21.5.2 and 21.5.3 of the 2020 Immunisation Handbook⁶:
 - Neonatal BCG is recommended and funded for infants at increased risk who:
 - will be living in a house or family/whānau with a person with either current TB or a history of TB
 - have one or both parents or household members or carers who within the last five years lived for a period of six months or longer in countries with a TB rate ≥ 40 per 100,000
 - during their first five years will be living for three months or longer in a country with a TB rate ≥ 40 per 100,000.
 - Other high-risk individuals or groups in section 21.5.3 of above including:
 - Contacts of active TB cases aged under 5 years (note that a contact exposed to TB in the preceding 3 months will need 2 negative tuberculin skin tests, 8-12 weeks apart, before vaccination)
 - Immigrants aged under 5 years from countries with a rate ≥ 40 per 100,000
 - Health care workers and laboratory staff, depending on their risk of exposure
 - People exposed to animals that are likely to be infected

Vaccination for overseas travel may occasionally be considered on an individual basis on referral.

⁶ Ministry of Health. 2020. Immunisation Handbook 2020. Wellington: Ministry of Health [Immunisation Handbook 2020 \(health.govt.nz\)](https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/immunisation-handbook-2020)

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