

Meningococcal B Vaccines

Ontario provides meningococcal B vaccine (4CMenB) as part of its publicly funded high risk program for individuals 2 months to 25 years of age with the following conditions:

- a) functional or anatomic asplenia
- b) congenital complement, properdin, factor D deficiency or primary antibody deficiencies
- c) Cochlear implant recipients (pre/post implant)
- d) acquired complement deficiencies (e.g., receiving eculizumab)
- e) HIV
- f) Close contacts of cases

Two to four doses are required, depending on the age at first dose.

In October 2017, a second menB vaccine [Trumenba™] was approved by Health Canada.

Meningococcal B Vaccines

Trumenba™ (Pfizer) is either a 2-dose or a 3-dose series.

Bexsero® (GSK) is a 2-dose series with doses given at least 1 month apart.

The two brands of menB vaccines are not interchangeable. The series must be started and completed with the same brand of vaccine.

Meningococcal B Vaccines	Bexsero® (4CMenB)	Trumenba™
Age licensed for use	2 months to 25 years of age	10 to 25 years of age
Route	IM – anterolateral thigh / deltoid	IM – deltoid
Dose (0.5mL each)	2 to 3-doses, depending on age Infant series need a booster at age two	2-doses at 0 and 6 months 3-doses at 0, 1 month, 4 months for high-risk clients
Men B antigens in vaccine	quadrivalent	bivalent
antigens	Aluminium hydroxide, histidine, kanamycin, (latex in prefilled syringes)	aluminum phosphate, histidine, polysorbate 80
Common side effects	pain at the injection site, headache, muscle/joint pain, fatigue or nausea	pain at injection site, headache, muscle ache, fatigue, nausea, diarrhea or fever

Recommended schedules for 4CMenB vaccine:

Age started on series	Doses	Spacing (in months)
2 to 5 months	3 + 1	0, 2, 2 and 2 [4 th dose at age ≥12 months]
6 to 11 months	3	0, 2 and 2 [3 rd dose at age ≥12 months]
12 months to 10 years	2	0 and 2
11 to 17 years	2	0 and 1
18 to 25 years	2	0 and 1 - Not publicly funded
≥ 26 years	2	0 and 1 - Not publicly funded and off label

Q. Is Meningococcal B vaccine funded for asplenic adults over the age of 26?

Men B vaccine is indicated for active immunization of individuals from 2 months through 25 years old against invasive disease caused by *N. meningitidis* serogroup B strains. **It is not publicly funded for adults 18 years and older.**

Q. Is Meningococcal B vaccine recommended for asplenic adults over the age 26 regardless of whether or not it's covered by public health?

The [Canadian National Advisory Committee on Immunization](#) identifies the following groups as being at higher risk of meningococcal disease than the general population:

"Individuals with specific underlying medical conditions:

1. persons with anatomic or functional asplenia (including sickle cell disease)
2. persons with congenital complement, properdin, factor D or primary antibody deficiencies
3. persons with acquired complement deficiencies (e.g. those receiving eculizumab)

NACI has previously stated that meningococcal vaccines could be considered for individuals with HIV".

Q. When patients are interested in Bexsero® and early meningococcal doses < 12 months (as are given in other provinces) how do you fit those all in?

Schedules for vaccines provided in other vaccines are available [here](#).

Meningococcal vaccines are inactivated vaccines and can be provided at the same time as other routine childhood vaccines.