



**IF *H. INFLUENZAE* IS ISOLATED FROM A STERILE SITE:**

Please ask your microbiology laboratory to contact one of the reference laboratories listed below to arrange transport of the *Haemophilus influenzae* isolate for serotyping:

For cases from SA, Tasmania, VIC or WA:

Contact: Microbiological Diagnostic Unit (Dr Geoff Hogg or Ms Jenny David (03) 9344 5701)

For cases from ACT, NSW, NT or Queensland:

Contact: Centre of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology (Prof Lyn Gilbert or Ms Ansuya Sharma on (02) 9845 6255)

**IF YOU SUSPECT HIB VACCINE FAILURE:****Hib vaccine failure definition**

Any invasive Hib infection occurring at least one week following the second Hib immunisation given in the first year of life *or* at least one week after a single dose of Hib vaccine given after the age of 12 months.

**Current recommendations for investigation and management of invasive Hib disease with suspected vaccine failure:**

1. Collect serum for Hib antibody (PRP) as soon as possible after admission
2. Collect serum in convalescence (2 weeks or more after diagnosis) for Hib antibody, total immunoglobulins and IgG subclasses
3. If no significant increase in Hib antibody is found in convalescent serum, IgG subclass deficiency is much more likely. However, most children respond to a further dose of conjugate Hib vaccine even if IgG deficient and should be reimmunised.

Please ask your microbiology laboratory to contact one of the laboratories listed below to arrange transport of serum specimens for Hib antibody, IgG and IgG subclasses from children with suspected vaccine failure:

- To arrange transport for specimens from Queensland, NSW, ACT and Victoria, please contact either Dr McIntyre or A/Prof Isaacs or Mr Mark Hanlon at the Immunology Laboratory, New Children's Hospital Westmead (02) 9845 3418, lab (02) 9845 3320/3324 [Fax: (02) 9845 3421].  
→ Forward specimens to the Immunology Laboratory, New Children's Hospital, Hawkesbury and Hainsworth Roads, Westmead NSW 2145 [Attention Mr Mark Hanlon (02) 9845 3320].
- To arrange transport for specimens from WA, SA, NT and Tasmania, please contact Prof Don Robertson at Women's and Children's Hospital Adelaide on (08) 8204 7452, lab (08) 8204 6328 [Fax: (08) 8204 7031].  
→ Forward specimens to the Immunology laboratory, Adelaide Women's and Children's Hospital, North Adelaide 5006 [Attention Ms Leonie Dinan (08) 8204 6324]

**FOLLOW-UP OF POSITIVE RETURNS**

A questionnaire requesting further details will be forwarded to practitioners who report a case. At the time of diagnosis please record the Hib vaccination status of the child, including the date each vaccination was received, and, if available, the type of vaccine received. If possible, written records should be sighted. This information will be required to complete the postal questionnaire.

**A copy of the questionnaire is enclosed for your information.**

**INVESTIGATOR CONTACT DETAILS (\*Principal Investigator)**

**\*Dr Peter McIntyre**, Department Immunology & Infectious Diseases and National Centre for Immunisation Research, The New Children's Hospital Sydney

**Dr B Harvey**, National Centre for Disease Control, Commonwealth Dept of Health and Family Services, Canberra

**Dr G Hogg**, Microbiological Diagnostic Unit, University of Melbourne

**Dr L Gilbert**, Centre for Infectious Disease & Microbiology, Westmead Hospital, Sydney

**Dr David Isaacs**, Dept of Immunology & Infectious Diseases, New Children's Hospital Sydney

**Dr Don Robertson**, Clinical Immunology, Women's & Children's Hospital, Adelaide

**Contact Address:** Dr Peter McIntyre, Senior Staff Specialist, Dept of Immunology & Infectious Diseases  
New Children's Hospital, PO Box 3515, PARRAMATTA NSW 2124  
New Children's Hospital  
Tel: 02 9845 3418 Fax: 02 9845 3421 Email: [PeterM@nch.edu.au](mailto:PeterM@nch.edu.au)