

# OPPORTUNISTIC IMMUNISATION

**Opportunistic Immunisation is the offering of immunisation at every contact between a child or adult and the immunisation service provider.**

**General Practitioners are in a unique position to encourage opportunistic immunisation encounters, as GPs see 93% of children 0 – 6 years of age an average of seven times a year.**

## WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- ★ Have posters and brochures promoting immunisation on display in your waiting room
- ★ When registering new patients, check their immunisation history
- ★ Take advantage of children presenting for other reasons & conditions to check immunisation status
- ★ Every time a child under seven presents to the surgery, ask about their immunisation status and next vaccination. Take the opportunity to also check other children in the family that may be present
- ★ Ensure good medical record keeping & documentation of patients immunisation encounters and history, to ensure that up-to-date immunisation status is available for patients
- ★ Use recall/reminder systems to “flag” patients files for immunisation
- ★ Have readily available information on the benefits and possible side effects of immunisation
- ★ Be aware of the false contraindications that may lead to missed opportunities

