

# Frequently Asked Questions for LMCs (FAQs)

**Q: What is this funding for, who is eligible, and when does it start?**

**A:** Health NZ has partnered with the Midwifery and Maternity Providers Organisation (MMPO) to enable self-employed Lead Maternity Carer (LMC) Midwives to receive funding to support them to offer immunisations.

Unlike primary care providers and pharmacies, LMC midwives have been unable to claim for vaccination event payments since administering immunisation is not listed in Section 94 of the Primary Maternity Services Notice (the Notice).

Through this new initiative, LMC midwives who claim under the Notice will be eligible to claim or apply for the following funding from 1 July 2025:

- **Vaccine administration payment** for antenatal immunisation events (Tdap, influenza, and COVID-19),
- **A one-off \$250 payment** on completion of the *IMAC Maternal Immunisation Essentials* course, and
- **Cold-chain equipment funding**, available on a case-by-case basis to support safe vaccine storage and delivery.

From 1 February 2026, LMC midwives are also eligible to claim for the following:

- **Vaccine administration payment** for additional funded immunisation events for midwives with expanded practice within scope, and
- **A one-off \$250 payment** on completion of the *IMAC Midwives' immunisation expanded practice* course for midwives intending to offer expanded practice vaccinations.

**Q: This initiative was initially limited to antenatal immunisation events. What additional vaccines can I claim for and from when?**

**A:** From 1 February 2026, upon completion of additional education required for expanded practice within scope, LMC midwives can claim for administering funded vaccines during pregnancy and up to 12 months from the baby's birth to the following cohorts in their care:

- mothers post-birth
- infants up to 12 months of age

- whānau members of the māmā/pēpi (adults and children of any age), where immunisation would have a beneficial impact on perinatal related care.

The Midwifery Council has published an [Expanded Practice Policy](#) and has a webpage on [Midwifery Scope of Practice](#) which midwives can read to support their understanding and expectations if engaging in Expanded Practice activities such as immunisation.

In July 2025, Te Tatau o e te Whare Kahu | New Zealand Midwifery Council approved colleague-to-colleague vaccinations as expanded practice within the Midwifery Scope of Practice under certain conditions. More information can be found on the IMAC [midwives' resources](#) page.

**Q: Where can I find up-to-date information on clinical guidance for vaccines I'll be administering?**

**A:** The [Immunisation Handbook](#) provides clinical guidelines for health professionals on the safest and most effective use of vaccines in their practice. The handbook includes information on the different vaccine-preventable diseases and eligibility criteria for funded vaccines, as well as planning immunisation catch-ups. We recommend midwives familiarise themselves with the Immunisation Handbook if they haven't already. IMAC also provides clinical guidance on 0800 IMMUNE (0800 466 863), 8:30am-4:30pm weekdays.

**Q: What vaccines are funded for reimbursement under this programme?**

**A:** The payment rate per funded vaccination is as follows:

- \$37.50 (GST exclusive) for influenza & COVID-19
- \$46.00 (GST exclusive) for all other funded vaccines

If more than one vaccine is given at the same time, you will be paid the lower vaccination event rate plus a co-administration fee of \$20.52 for any additional vaccines. All payments are GST exclusive.

These claims are valid only if the recipient meets [Pharmac eligibility criteria](#), and the event is recorded in the Aotearoa Immunisation Register (AIR) under the "Midwifery & Maternity Provider Org" Facility.

Payment is aligned with the PHO Services Agreement for general practice.

**Q: When will I be paid for the funded vaccines I administer?**

**A:** Vaccination events will be paid to you twice a week, on Tuesday and Thursday.

**Q: To provide additional protection for pēpi against pertussis, can I administer the pertussis vaccine to whānau members of hapū māmā?**

**A:** As part of expanded practice within scope, midwives can administer funded vaccines to eligible whānau members of the baby during pregnancy and up to 12 months post-birth. A midwife may offer private market vaccinations to whānau members that do not meet Pharmac funding criteria, however, they **must not** use funded vaccine for these vaccination events and are not entitled to claim an administration fee for this vaccination event. If planning to offer these vaccines, the midwife will need to purchase private market stock through a distributor such as [HCL](#) for this purpose and charge the consumer directly for this service.

**Q: Do I need a formal contract with Health NZ to be paid, and do I need to pay to sign up?**

**A:** No. MMPO holds the primary contract with Health NZ and manages the digital payment system. Registering with the MMPO to claim this funding is free.

**Q: I'm not an MMPO member – can I still be paid?**

**A:** Yes. All LMC midwives are eligible to claim payments through the MMPO-administered Tiaki Vaccination Payment Service. Contact [MMPO](#) to get onboarded and support for AIR access, ordering, and payment setup. Email [vaccsupport@mmpo.org.nz](mailto:vaccsupport@mmpo.org.nz) or phone 03 377 2485 and select Option 3.

Midwives who use a non-MMPO Practice Management System to claim for maternity services can continue to use their chosen provider while also accessing vaccination funding through the MMPO.

To find out more, scan the QR code below.



**Q: Do I have to do any training to offer antenatal and colleague vaccines?**

**A:** No, a midwife is not required to complete authorised vaccinator training to administer antenatal and colleague vaccinations as part of the midwifery scope of practice.

However, midwives are encouraged to complete the free online 5-hour Immunisation Advisory Centre “Maternal Immunisation Essentials for Midwives” course and can then claim a \$250+ GST incentive payment for doing so. This builds on, and updates, undergraduate education and provides the knowledge and confidence to hold vaccination conversations with whānau as well as administer vaccinations.

Those midwives who are planning to offer influenza vaccines to colleagues are encouraged to update their knowledge by watching the yearly IMAC winter readiness webinar.

**Q: Do I have to do any training to offer expanded practice vaccines?**

**A:** Yes, midwives need to retain evidence of their education and ongoing competency in order to administer expanded practice vaccines as part of expanded practice within scope.

IMAC has created a new online training module, “Midwives’ immunisation expanded practice”, which you need to complete and retain evidence for the Midwifery Council before you can administer expanded practice immunisations. Once you have completed the course, you can submit this to MMPO to claim the \$250 training payment.

**Q: What are the Midwifery Council’s requirements and expectations regarding expanded practice?**

**A:** The declaration that midwives are required to submit during their application for an Annual Practising Certificate will require midwives to declare if they have expanded their practice.

The declaration will ask for a description of the expanded practice and whether the midwife had undertaken the required education and is maintaining ongoing competency.

Council expects midwives to retain evidence of continuing competence in that area of expanded practice and record it in their online Midwifery Council MyMCANZ CPD tab.

Midwives enrolled in a new graduate programme, or those undertaking competence programmes as a condition on their Scope of Practice, for example, an Overseas Competence Programme, are advised not to provide expanded practice activities until they have completed their Council approved programme.

Midwives undergoing Competence Programmes relating to fitness to practise are advised to discuss any areas of expanded practice with the Midwifery Council.

**Q: I've already done the IMAC "Maternal Immunisation Essentials" training. Can I still get the \$250 incentive?**

**A:** Yes, if you completed the IMAC Maternal Immunisation Essentials for Midwives course, you can claim the \$250.00 + GST training incentive retrospectively by providing a certificate of completion to MMPO.

**Q: I want to do the IMAC "Maternal Immunisation Essentials" training, but I'm not intending to administer vaccines at this stage. Can I still get the \$250 incentive?**

**A:** Yes. The "Maternal Immunisation Essentials" course is recommended for all midwives, whether they are intending to offer antenatal vaccinations or just want to learn more. The course includes general vaccination information that can be a useful refresher post-graduation as well as information on how to discuss immunisations with whānau.

**Q: I want to do the IMAC "Midwives' immunisation expanded practice" training but I'm not intending to administer expanded practice vaccines. Can I still get the \$250 incentive?**

**A:** No, this payment is only for midwives who are going to be offering expanded practice vaccinations as part of their immunisation service. This education builds on from the "Maternal Immunisation Essentials" IMAC course and is only required if expanded practice immunisations are going to be offered.

To claim the \$250 payment, midwives are required to upload the training certificate to MMPO and declare that they intend to offer expanded practice vaccines as part of their practice.

Midwives are welcome to complete this free course even if they are not intending on offering these immunisations but will not be able to claim the training incentive. Midwives who are interested in understanding more about what is involved in offering these vaccines are encouraged to complete the course and claim the incentive if they later onboard to offer these extra vaccines.

**Q: I'm already administering antenatal vaccines. How do I claim for these?**

**A:** Antenatal vaccines (Tdap, Influenza and Covid-19) given from 1 July 2025 are eligible for the vaccine administration payment. If you have been administering vaccinations since 1 July 2025 and haven't received the vaccine administration payment for these events, please contact MMPO to arrange back payment.

**Q: I've given vaccinations before 1 July 2025. Can I still claim for those?**

**A:** No, claims for vaccine administration through this initiative can only be made for immunisations given on or after 1 July 2025, which is the start date for the funding agreement between Health NZ and MMPO. Vaccinations administered before this date are not eligible for reimbursement under this programme.

**Q: I don't have cold-chain setup at my facility. Can I still administer vaccines?**

**A:** You can only administer vaccines if you have an approved cold chain setup or access to one through a shared or mobile model. Midwives in priority areas may be eligible for reimbursement of cold chain equipment (e.g. fridge, data logger).

To find out more, scan the QR code below.



**Q: I'm interested in offering vaccines. What things do I need to set up?**

**A:** the [MMPO Immunisation Support Hub](#) provides an overview of the steps to get setup, helpful resources, and a link to register with MMPO for support.

Health NZ also has an Immunisation Onboarding Guide available in the [NIP Dropbox](#), which provides information on how to offer an immunisation service, such as:

- Signing up for the Aotearoa Immunisation Register to record vaccinations and view immunisation history
- How to order vaccine stock
- How to download and order copies of health promotion materials
- A checklist for setting up your vaccination site, including appropriate cold chain for safe vaccine storage.

The MMPO, Health NZ regional teams, and local Immunisation Coordinators are available to support you through this process – you can find contact details in the Immunisation Onboarding Guide.

**Q: What consumables can I claim for?**

**A:** Consumables like needles, plasters, and syringes are not provided with vaccines but are covered by the administration fee. You must purchase these separately through your usual medical supply channels. Note the funded flu vaccine for 2026 comes with needles attached.

**Q: How do I advertise that I now offer vaccines?**

**A:** Once onboarded, you may wish to:

- Inform your clients directly
- Update your website or social media
- Use approved promotional materials (these can be downloaded from NIP Dropbox and HealthEd, or printed copies can be ordered for free from Bluestar).