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25 January 2022

COMMENTS TO THE PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Medicine to which this submission relates

Vaxelis (hexavalent)

Date of PBAC meeting

March 2022

Submitted by

Global Healthy Living Foundation (PTY LTD) Australia

Question 3. What do you see as the advantages of this proposed medicine, in particular for those with the medical condition and/or family and carers?

Vaccines have paved the way in for healthy futures, lowering the risk of preventable disease in Australia for decades. Childhood immunisations have outstanding success thanks to the National Immunisation Program, with the vaccination rate for under five years 95.22% in 2021, above World Health Organisation international average coverage of 86%.

Combination vaccinations make the process for parents to vaccinate their children easier. This aids greater vaccination schedule completion in young children and, ultimately, higher rates of immunization coverage.

Vaxelis hexavalent vaccine with its recommended administration at 2,4 and 6 months of age provides coverage for six vaccine preventable diseases; diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis [whooping cough], hepatitis B, polio, *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib). Without combination vaccinations, such as Vaxelis, the same six diseases would require 18 vaccinations to provide full coverage by 2-years of age. Vaxelis reduces that number to three.

Families will be the beneficiaries of the introduction of Vaxelis by reducing their vaccination burden. The new hexavalent brings a second to Australia which improves industry choice, consumer access and introduces competitiveness in the market for critical vaccines.

Question 4. What do you see as the main disadvantages of this proposed medicine?

Introduction of a new vaccine in the current environment of vaccine schedules for COVID-19 could provide additional concern for consumers who seem more likely to engage in the process of education prior to commitment to a vaccination.

Question 5.

Please provide any additional comments you would like the PBAC to consider.

In the last twelve months, Global Healthy Living Foundation has worked to provide vaccination support to the community by providing vaccination education for the broader community. Through our MatterofVax programs such as educational videos, we have seen how this community engages with vaccinations and commits to a lifetime of positive health-seeking behaviors, which is a critical and a constant inspiration for our work.

Hexavalent vaccines are a leap forward for any National Immunisation Program by drastically reducing the number of vaccinations children receive, thereby increasing uptake and completion of vaccination schedules across the population.

GHLF Australia, on behalf of its community encourage the PBAC to consider inclusion of Vaxelis.

**How did you learn about this consumer submission process to be able to submit your comments today?
Are there any other comments you would like to make about the process for submitting consumer input to the PBAC?**

GHLF Australia monitors the PBAC submission process and submits comments when we feel the outcome will benefit our patient community, families, carers and the greater population.

Sources

Australia Department of Health, [National Immunisation Program Schedule 1 July 2020 \(health.gov.au\)](https://www.health.gov.au/national-immunisation-program-schedule-1-july-2020)

National Centre for Immunisation and Surveillance, [ATAGI 81st meeting Agenda attachment A.](#)

US Centre for Disease Control, <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6905a5.htm>

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, [Australia surpasses childhood immunization benchmark,](#)