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Patients approved for cochlear implant surgery as well as past implant recipients may benefit from vaccines for organisms that cause bacterial meningitis.

Vaccines available to prevent meningitis in infants and at-risk groups caused by these organisms should be provided for potential and past cochlear implant recipients such as follows:

1. Haemophilus influenzae

- Hib conjugate vaccine should be provided to children 2-59 months of age as outlines in the Alberta Immunization Manual (January 2001).
- Individuals five years of age or older need **not** receive Hib vaccines.

2. Streptococcus pneumoniae

- Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (7 valent) should be provided to all infants beginning at two months of age and to at-risk children up to 59 months of age (see Pneumococcal Program Manual, September 2002).
- Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (23 valent) should be offered to at-risk individual 2-64 years of age and to all persons over the age of 65 years.

The foregoing immunization guidelines for cochlear implant recipients are an interim measure until Health Canada completes investigations and/or recommendations are made by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI).