**KNOW THE SIGNS & SYMPTOMS**

Early symptoms of meningococcal disease may appear mild – similar to those of a cold or the flu. However, symptoms can progress quickly and may include: 15

- High fever
- Stiff neck
- Dislike bright lights
- Vomiting
- Sleepiness
- Sometimes, red or purple spots or bruises on the skin

Additional symptoms in babies may include:

- Cold hands and feet or shivering, being floppy or harder to wake, unusual crying and refusal to eat.

Additional symptoms in older children and adults may include:

- Headache, confusion, joint pain and aching muscles.

Don’t wait for spots to appear before getting medical help. Seek medical attention immediately if you see one or more of the symptoms above 15

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

[MeningitisB.co.nz](http://MeningitisB.co.nz)  8000 611 116

[Immunisation Advisory Centre](http://www.immunite.org.nz)  8000 466 863

[Meningitis.org.nz](http://Meningitis.org.nz)

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**Meningococcal B**

(commonly known as meningitis)

**can change life in a moment**

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**Bexsero**

(Multicomponent Meningococcal group B Vaccine)

is an injection.

Bexsero is for immunisation against invasive disease caused by N. meningitidis group B from 2 months of age or as per official recommendations. Bexsero is available as a private-purchase prescription medicine – you will have to pay normal doctor’s visit fees and a prescription charge. A trained pharmacist can also administer Bexsero to a person aged 16 years and older. A 0.5 mL dose contains contains 50mcg of Neisseria meningitidis Group B Neisseria Heparin Binding Antigen protein, 50mcg of Neisseria meningitidis Group B Neisseria Adhesin A protein, 50mcg of Neisseria meningitidis Group B Factor H Binding Protein fusion protein, 25 mcg of Outer membrane vesicles (OMV) from Neisseria meningitidis group B strain NZ98/254 measured as amount of total protein containing the PorA P1.4. Bexsero has risks and benefits. Bexsero should not be administered if you or your child are hypersensitive to any component of this vaccine Common side effects include:

- Infants & Toddlers: eating disorders, sleepiness, unusual crying, diarrhea, vomiting, rash, fever (≥39.5°C), injection site reactions, irritability, arthralgia. Adolescents & Adults: headache, nausea, injection site reactions, malaise, myalgia, arthralgia. If you or your child have side effects, see your doctor, pharmacist, or health professional. Additional Consumer Medicine Information for Bexsero is available at [www.medsafe.govt.nz](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz). Ask your doctor if Bexsero is right for you or your child. Bexsero is a registered trade mark of the GlaxoSmithKline group of companies. Marketed by GlaxoSmithKline NZ Limited, Auckland. TAPS NA1045018SE/VAC/0018/18. GSK00691

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**Thankfully, Bexsero is available to help protect against it.**

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A parent’s guide to understanding meningococcal B disease

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Bexsero® (Multicomponent Meningococcal group B Vaccine) is available as an injection.

Bexsero is for immunisation against invasive disease caused by N. meningitidis group B from 2 months of age or as per official recommendations. Bexsero is available as a private-purchase prescription medicine – you will have to pay normal doctor’s visit fees and a prescription charge. A trained pharmacist can also administer Bexsero to a person aged 16 years and older. A 0.5 mL dose contains contains 50mcg of Neisseria meningitidis Group B Neisseria Heparin Binding Antigen protein, 50mcg of Neisseria meningitidis Group B Neisseria Adhesin A protein, 50mcg of Neisseria meningitidis Group B Factor H Binding Protein fusion protein, 25 mcg of Outer membrane vesicles (OMV) from Neisseria meningitidis group B strain NZ98/254 measured as amount of total protein containing the PorA P1.4. Bexsero has risks and benefits. Bexsero should not be administered if you or your child are hypersensitive to any component of this vaccine Common side effects include:

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Adverse events involving GlaxoSmithKline products should be reported to GSK Medical Information on 0800 808 500.
WHAT IS MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE?

Meningococcal disease is an uncommon but serious infection caused by the bacteria Neisseria meningitidis. A person with meningococcal disease can develop meningitis (inflammation of the membrane around the brain), septicaemia (blood infection) or pneumonia. It strikes and progresses quickly - usually without warning.²,⁴

ABOUT 1 IN 10 INFECTED WITH MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE CAN DIE, SOMETIMES WITHIN 24 HOURS²,⁴,⁵

And up to 1 in 5 can suffer from serious long-term disabilities, including brain damage, deafness, and limb loss.⁵,⁶

70% OF MENINGOCOCCAL CASES IN NEW ZEALAND ARE CAUSED BY GROUP B⁶,⁷

There are several different groups of meningococcal bacteria, of which there are five groups that most commonly cause disease (A, B, C, W and Y).⁸ In 2016, reported cases of meningococcal disease in New Zealand were caused by:⁹

HOW IS IT SPREAD?
The bacteria that cause meningococcal disease live within the nose and throat. Around 10 - 20% of people will carry the bacteria at any one time, without ever becoming ill.²

They can be spread through everyday behaviours, including:⁸

Coughing & sneezing
Sharing drinks & eating utensils
Living in close quarters
Kissing

WHO’S AT RISK?
Anyone can get meningococcal B, however babies and children under 5 are at most risk, followed by teens.⁹,¹⁰

IS YOUR CHILD OR TEEN PROTECTED AGAINST MENINGOCOCCAL B?

Probably not. The New Zealand National Immunisation Schedule does not currently include a vaccine to protect against meningococcal B.¹²

BEXSERO IS A VACCINE THAT CAN HELP PROTECT AGAINST MENINGOCOCCAL B³

Bexsero is given by injection and the number of doses needed depends on the age of the person being vaccinated.³

Bexsero is not currently included on the New Zealand National Immunisation Schedule so you will need to pay for Bexsero.¹²

As with other vaccines, Bexsero has benefits and risks.³

Ask your healthcare professional about vaccination with Bexsero to help protect against meningococcal B.³