

## Comisión Nacional de Inmunización (CoNaiN)

### Structure, role and procedures

#### *Purpose*

CoNaiN is an independent technical body that advises national policy-makers on decision making on matters related to immunization based on evidence and local epidemiology. As it is an advisory body, it does not have decision-making, implementation, coordination or regulatory responsibilities regarding activities related to immunization.

#### *Terms of reference*

CoNaiN was established by the Ministry of Health according to an official resolution (Resolución Ministerio de Salud número 941. Expediente número 2002-11144/00-6. República Argentina).

#### *Functions*

Its functions include the formulation of recommendations on the introduction of vaccines into the immunization program, administration schedules, vaccine safety, vaccination policies, vaccine development, surveillance of vaccine-preventable diseases and any other matter on which the Ministry of Health requires advice.

#### *Composition*

1. Core members: a group of experts on the matter (members), one of whom will serve as the chair of CoNaiN. The experts may be from the following fields or areas of expertise: infectious diseases, immunization, internal medicine, family medicine, microbiology and nursing. They will carry out their functions for a two-year period, with the possibility of being reelected for an additional period.
2. Associate members: representatives of scientific societies (Pediatrics Society of Argentina, Argentine Infectious Diseases Society and Argentine Pediatrics Infectious Diseases Society), technical bodies, national laboratories of reference, national Ministry of Health programs, and guest experts or advisors.
3. A representative responsible for the immunization program per region.
4. Members of the Secretariat: the secretary (head of the National Immunization Program) and a technical expert to provide status reports and consolidate recommendations.

Core members will be selected by the Ministry of Health. The representatives of scientific societies and technical bodies will be appointed by the same. All of them will perform their functions *ad honorem* and must declare any conflicts of interest. No one matching the following descriptions may be a member: a. employee or advisor to a vaccine company that produces vaccines or related products; b. shareholder of a vaccine company. Anyone who has participated in the development of a product or on an advisory committee on a product discussed by CoNaIn may not participate in the formulation of recommendations on that particular product.

#### *Working methodology*

CoNaIn will base its decisions on technical (efficacy, safety, burden of disease and cost effectiveness), programmatic (supply, infrastructure and financing) and social criteria (acceptability, risk perception, political will and social equity).

Working groups will be established to provide evidence based information and options for consideration by CoNaIn experts.

#### *Administrative and financial support*

The Ministry of Health will be responsible for providing administrative support. Regarding funding, costs will be limited to expenses related to holding meetings, administrative expenses and studies requested by the commission.