



Westside Medical Centre

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Q Fever Information Sheet for Westside Medical Centre

What is Q fever? Q fever is an illness caused by the bacteria *Coxiella Burnetii* which is transmitted by animals. Q fever can cause a severe flu-like illness, chronic fatigue and other serious complications. Q Fever vaccination offers highly effective prevention.

People at risk of contracting Q fever include:

1. People working with cattle, sheep, goats and their products.
2. People working with wildlife (e.g. kangaroos), feral or domestic animals
3. People who live, work or visit at-risk environments or in close proximity to them.

About Q fever Vaccination: Q fever is a safe inactivated vaccine, with similar rates of allergy/skin irritation to other vaccinations.

However, if it is administered to someone who has previously had Q fever it can cause severe side effects. To avoid this every patient will undergo pre-vaccination screening with a blood and skin test.

Cost of Vaccination: The total cost of Q fever vaccination is \$300. \$150 for the first consultation (\$36 Medicare rebate) and \$150 for the vaccination at the second consultation (if required). This cost of the vaccination is tax deductible for at-risk occupations.

How do I get Vaccinated? Two appointments are required, the second appointment is booked exactly ONE WEEK later.

First appointment: At the first appointment your doctor will assess your risk of Q fever, ensure it is appropriate for you and arrange a blood test (needs to be collected immediately) and follow up appointment for skin testing. Blood collection MUST OCCUR BEFORE the skin test is administered. Skin testing is where a tiny dose of the vaccine is administered to your forearm.

Second appointment: Exactly 1 week later your skin test will be reviewed by the doctor. If the test is negative (no skin lump) then the Q fever vaccination can be administered. It takes two weeks for the vaccination to become effective. If you consent, we can upload record of the vaccination to the Q-fever register for future reference and/or we can provide an immunisation record card.

Who cannot have the vaccination? Vaccination is not advised for the following groups. Discuss with your doctor if you have any concerns about your ability to have the vaccination.

- Children under 15 years of age
- Previous history of Q fever or previous Q fever vaccination
- Hypersensitivity to egg
- Pregnant women
- Immunosuppressed patients