



## UKPIPS Factsheet No. 001

# What is a Primary Immune Deficiency?

The term **Primary Immune Deficiency (PID)** means a disease that has happened because of a fault (usually a genetic fault) in the body's ability to either produce or maintain a complete immune system. Just as there are many different parts of the immune system, so there are many different types of Primary Immune Deficiency.

### What is A Primary Disease?

Primary disease is something that happens of its own. Very often primary diseases are caused by faults in the genes. In contrast, a secondary disease is something that happens in the body after something else has damaged or attacked it in some way. An example of a primary and secondary disease is this: somebody gets flu, this is a primary infection. The person then goes on to develop pneumonia, this is a secondary infection. The flu was primary, the pneumonia was secondary to the flu.

### What does Immune Mean?

In this context the word immune refers to the immune system. This is one of the most complicated systems of the body. The immune system has lots of different parts which need to work together to keep the body safe from organisms that could harm it.

### In a Medical Context what does Deficiency mean?

The word deficiency is used to explain that the body is lacking in something it needs to function properly.

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### ***UK Primary Immune-deficiency Patient Support***

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