

Scottish Vaccine Update

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Vaccine supply arrangements for 2015-16 influenza programme

On 18 December 2014, the Scottish Government issued a circular laying out the vaccine supply arrangements for the 2015-16 influenza vaccination programme.

The arrangements for the provision of vaccine for 2015-16 are the same as for the 2014-15 season.

GPs only need to make arrangements for ordering vaccine for those aged 65 years or above and for those aged 18 to under 65 years in at-risk groups. Practices should advise the community pharmacy contractor who will be procuring the vaccine on their behalf of the quantity of vaccine they require for adults. Pharmacists will process orders by no later than 30 January 2015. As has been the case for the last few seasons pharmacists ordering vaccines are required to split their order equally between at least three sources of supply.

All flu vaccine supplies for children will be purchased centrally by the Scottish Government. GPs no longer need to order vaccine for children from 6 months to under 18 years.

The circular also highlights that GPs should advise pharmacists of any quantity of egg free vaccine they require. The requirement to split between three separate suppliers does not include egg free vaccine.

The circular is available at: [http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/pca/PCA2014\(P\)28.pdf](http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/pca/PCA2014(P)28.pdf).

Inactivated flu vaccines - stock is still available

In the December 2014 issue of Scottish Vaccine Update <http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/immvax/publicationsdetail.aspx?id=62012> we highlighted it is never too late to offer flu vaccination to any eligible person who has not yet received their vaccine. This is particularly important for those in clinical at-risk groups who may become seriously ill as a consequence of catching flu. Suppliers of inactivated flu vaccine still have stock available to order for the 2014-15 season.

Check the expiry date of Fluenz Tetra[®] vaccine

Fluenz Tetra[®] supplied for the childhood flu vaccination programme has a shorter shelf life than other influenza vaccines. Fluenz Tetra[®] has been supplied with expiry dates ranging from 22 December 2014 and into early January 2015. A smaller volume of stock is available with expiry dates later in January and into February 2015. Please ensure the expiry date is always checked before use.

Shingles (herpes zoster) vaccine uptake for 2013-14

In September 2013 the Scottish Government launched the first national shingles immunisation campaign using Zostavax[®], which is a live attenuated vaccine. In the first year of the programme (2013-14), the vaccine was offered to non-immunocompromised adults aged 70 years and also rolled out as part of an ongoing catch-up programme to 79-year-olds (see CMO letter CMO(2013)15 at [http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/cmo/CMO\(2013\)15.pdf](http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/cmo/CMO(2013)15.pdf)).

The annual uptake of Zostavax® for Scotland from 01 September 2013 to 31 August 2014, based on submissions from approximately 95% of GP practices, was 59.7% for the routine cohort i.e. those aged 70 years on 1 September 2013 and ranged from 51.2% to 66.8% across the NHS boards. Annual uptake for the catch-up cohort, i.e. those aged 79 years on 1 September 2013, was 55.6% and ranged from 47% to 65%.

Full details including information on uptake by NHS board, cumulative uptake by month and use of the vaccine in individuals who were not in the vaccine cohort age group are available within the HPS Weekly Report 06 January 2015, available at <http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/ewr/>.

In last month's Scottish Vaccine Update we highlighted the importance of careful checking of an individual's suitability for Zostavax®. Since it is a live vaccine, Zostavax® is contra-indicated for patients who have a known primary or acquired immunodeficiency state or patients who are receiving current immunosuppressive therapy including high-dose corticosteroids, biological therapies or combination therapies. A link to the December 2014 issue with further details is available at <http://www.documents.hps.scot.nhs.uk/immunisation/scottish-vaccine-update/issue36-2014-12.pdf>.

Infanrix-IPV-Hib® - importance of reconstitution

The December issue of the Public Health England Vaccine Update highlighted some reports had been received of immunisers failing to reconstitute the *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) component of the Infanrix-IPV-Hib® vaccine prior to administration. The Hib component is supplied as a freeze-dried preparation in a separate glass vial that must be reconstituted with the pre-filled syringe containing diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis and inactivated poliomyelitis antigens. It is important for all immunisers to be familiar with the packaging of Infanrix-IPV-Hib® (not to be mistaken with the pre-school booster of Infanrix-IPV®) and to ensure all components of the vaccine are reconstituted as per manufacturer's instructions. For more information please see the July 2014 issue of Scottish Vaccine Update <http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/immvax/publicationsdetail.aspx?id=59078>.

Vaccine supplies

Boostrix-IPV®

Boostrix-IPV® is available to order through NHS board vaccine holding centres for pregnant women to protect their newborns against whooping cough. Boostrix-IPV® should not be used for pre-school boosting, or in response to outbreaks.

Update on interruptions to supply of Typhoid, Hepatitis A and Hepatitis A/Typhoid Vaccines

The latest update following ongoing reports of interruptions to the supply of Typhoid, Hepatitis A and Hepatitis A/Typhoid Vaccines is as follows:

Typhim Vi®

Sanofi Pasteur MSD are experiencing delays in the next delivery of Typhim Vi® (polysaccharide typhoid vaccine) into the UK. This delay has led to Typhim Vi® being made available in limited capacities. Normal supply is anticipated to resume in March 2015.

ViATIM®

Sanofi Pasteur MSD are experiencing delays in the next delivery of ViATIM® (hepatitis A/typhoid vaccine) into the UK. Normal supply is anticipated to resume in March 2015.

AVAXIM® and VAQTA® Paediatric

Sanofi Pasteur MSD are working to provide additional supplies of AVAXIM® and VAQTA® Paediatric (hepatitis A vaccines). These will be available to cover the shortfall from other manufacturers. However, supply of VAQTA® Paediatric will be limited per customer due to the increased demand.

Typherix® and Hepatyrix®

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) have confirmed they currently have no supply of Typherix® (Vi polysaccharide typhoid vaccine) or Hepatyrix® (hepatitis A and typhoid combined), and do not anticipate any supply to be available before March 2015.

Vivotif® (oral typhoid vaccine)

MASTA have confirmed stock orders of Vivotif® which have already cleared production and they therefore anticipate a continued supply.

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If you want to receive issues of Scottish Vaccine Update as they are published please subscribe at: <http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/immvax/scottishvaccineupdate.aspx>.

Scottish Vaccine Update information on vaccine supplies is based upon information obtained from Public Health England Vaccine Update issue 223.