

# Scottish Vaccine Update

Health Protection Scotland - Issue 38 - February 2015 © HPS

## Fluenz tetra® expiry date

The live intranasal flu vaccine Fluenz tetra® has a shorter shelf life than other influenza vaccines and, like all vaccines, needs to be used before it exceeds its expiry date. All of the Fluenz tetra® supplied for the childhood flu vaccination programme expires in mid-late February 2015, so please check the vaccine is still in date before using it. Please contact your local vaccine holding centre for arrangements on how to return expired stock.

## Boostrix IPV®

Boostrix IPV® is available for pregnant women to protect their new-borns against whooping cough. Boostrix IPV® should only be used for the pregnant women programme and not for the pre-school booster, or in response to outbreaks. Infanrix IPV® is available for the pre-school booster instead.

## Availability of Infanrix-IPV+Hib® and Pediacel®

Infanrix-IPV+Hib® is available to order. Pediacel® is not currently available.

Where possible and if local stock allows, it is preferable that the same DTaP/ IPV-Hib containing vaccine be used for all three doses of the primary course. However, vaccination should never be delayed because the vaccine used for previous doses is not known or unavailable.

The January issue of the Public Health England Vaccine Update highlighted some reports had been received of immunisers selecting the wrong vaccine for primary immunisations. Primary immunisations must be with Infanrix-IPV+Hib® (or Pediacel®, if its still in your fridge) and not with Infanrix-IPV. By incorrectly selecting Infanrix-IPV babies will not receive the protection they need against *Haemophilus influenzae* type B (Hib). There were also reports of immunisers failing to reconstitute the 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>

## Register now to receive Scottish Vaccine Update

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 224.