

Scottish Vaccine Update

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Administration of MenB vaccine booster

Health Protection Scotland has received several enquiries about eligibility for MenB vaccine at age 12 months, particularly relating to catch-up cohorts (born May and June 2015). Scottish Government has confirmed that *all* children born from 1 May 2015 remain eligible for MenB vaccine, *regardless of how many doses they have previously received*.

This advice aligns with current Green Book wording ([here](#)): Children aged one year to less than two years should receive two doses of MenB vaccine at least two months apart. Those who received one dose of MenB vaccine before their first birthday only require one more dose, with an interval of at least two months between the two MenB doses.

Only children born on or after 1 May 2015 should be offered MenB catch-up vaccinations.

As MenB is still a relatively new vaccine, it is recommended that, as with the infant doses, this vaccine is administered into the left thigh, ideally on its own, so that any local reactions can be monitored more accurately.

As vaccines can be given into the deltoid area of the upper arm from one year of age, it is recommended that the other vaccines due at one year of age (Hib/MenC, PCV and MMR) be given into the remaining three limbs. If it is not possible to use the arms, it is recommended that the MMR, as the vaccine least likely to cause local reactions, is given in the same thigh as the MenB and the PCV and Hib/MenC boosters are given into the other thigh.

If more than one vaccine is given in the same limb, it is recommended that they should be given at least 2.5cm apart and the site at which each vaccine is given should be noted in the child's clinical record.

Does paracetamol suspension need to be administered when children receive their 12-13 month booster dose of MenB vaccine?

In clinical vaccine trials, the most common adverse reaction observed in infants and children under two years of age was a high rate of fever ($>38^{\circ}\text{C}$) when MenB vaccine was administered at the same time as other routine childhood vaccines. As a result, the JCVI recommended the use of prophylactic paracetamol when infants receive MenB vaccine at the same time as other routine childhood vaccines such as DTaP/IPV/Hib at 2, 3 and 4 months of age. As these vaccines are not administered as part of the 12-13 month booster vaccines, there is no additional requirement to offer paracetamol at the same time. Nevertheless, as for any vaccine, should fever be experienced after vaccination, paracetamol may be given (see [here](#) for what to expect after vaccination advice)

Flu vaccination distribution for NHS Scotland is changing

In previous years, GP practices have placed orders for seasonal flu vaccines with community pharmacies which would then order vaccines from the suppliers and arrange delivery.

For the 2016/17 season, NSS National Procurement (part of NHS National Services Scotland) has centrally purchased sufficient supplies to meet the needs of NHS Scotland seasonal flu immunisation programme. GP practices (including dispensing doctors) will order their required vaccines from the NHS Scotland appointed distributor OM Movianto, and have them delivered to practices directly.

The change only applies to the supply of trivalent inactivated influenza vaccines to GP practices for patients over the age of 65 and all at risk patients aged 18 or over. There is no change to the arrangement for obtaining flu vaccine for children. GP practices should place orders for live nasal spray vaccine or quadrivalent inactivated flu vaccine (for those children from age 3 years in whom live vaccine is not suitable) for children with vaccine holding centres in NHS boards using local ordering systems.

A dedicated support team has been established in OM Movianto to guide and support practices through the new process and answer any queries. The team will call all GP practices during June to gather key information such as opening hours and contact details, and to discuss the practice requirements for the season. GP practices will be able to place vaccine orders with OM Movianto for the seasonal flu vaccine programme from 1st July 2016 through a dedicated web-based order platform. The service will include tracking of deliveries and email confirmation of orders

A detailed Frequently Asked Questions document on the new ordering and distribution process is being prepared and will be available to download in the coming weeks from: www.psd.scot.nhs.uk/flu-vaccine-distribution.html

Cessation of Rubella Immunity Screening in Pregnancy

In CMO letter CMO(2016)09 the Scottish Government advised of the cessation of antenatal screening for all pregnant women booking for maternity care from 1 June 2016 following a review by the UK National Screening Committee. The CMO letter is available [here](#).

The MMR vaccine plays a key role in reducing incidence of rubella in the community.

Midwives should remind pregnant women during antenatal screening and during community contacts following delivery that if they are not sure about their MMR vaccination status, they should consult their GPs.

Health visitors when discussing immunisation for the newborn baby should also enquire about the MMR vaccination status of the mother and if not fully immunised, advise mother to contact her own GP for advice.

Primary care staff should take every opportunity to discuss their patients' vaccination status and check whether they may be eligible for vaccination as per the guidance in the Green Book chapter on Measles, available [here](#).

Travel Medicine Essentials Course - 1 June 2016

Registration for the Travel Medicine Essentials Course on 1 June 2016 at QEII Centre, London is open. Travel vaccination will focus in the conference.

Four essential, stand-alone workshops form a half-day pre-conference session for the [6th Northern European Conference on Travel Medicine](#). This course is aimed at all health professionals and designed to introduce the inexperienced to the basics of travel medicine practice but may also be of interest to those wishing to refresh their knowledge. Each session will be facilitated by a well known expert covering the following topics: Communication, Travel Vaccines, Malaria, and Special Groups.

Pre-booking is essential and a preferential rate of £50 has been secured for this event. There are also a number of bursaries available to help support attendance at the NECTM event, including these sessions, which you can find details of here: [Bursaries](#)

More information can be found on the [Course Flyer](#)

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Scottish Vaccine Update information on vaccine supplies is based upon information obtained from Public Health England Vaccine Update issue 243