

Scottish Vaccine Update

Health Protection Scotland

Issue 64 September 2017 © HPS



Introduction of hexavalent vaccine into the routine childhood programme

From 1 October 2017 all babies born on or after 1 August 2017 become eligible for a hexavalent vaccine which includes protection against hepatitis B (HepB). The hexavalent vaccine will be offered in the routine childhood immunisation schedule at 8, 12 and 16 weeks of age.

The hexavalent vaccine, Infanrix hexa[®], will replace the pentavalent infant vaccines, Infanrix[®]-IPV+Hib and Pediacel[®], currently used in the routine childhood programme. This will mean babies continue to receive protection against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) as well as protection against HepB.



Presentation of hexavalent vaccine

Infanrix hexa[®] is presented in two parts, a pre-filled syringe and a separate vial containing the powdered Hib component. The vaccine must be reconstituted by adding the contents of the pre-filled syringe to the vial containing the powder. Further details can be found in the Infanrix hexa[®] Summary of Product Characteristics [here](#).

For more details on this changes to the routine childhood immunisation schedule and to the selective hepatitis B immunisation programme see issue 61 of Scottish Vaccine Update, available [here](#).

Seasonal Influenza Immunisation Programme 2017/18

Influenza vaccines for children and adults for the seasonal influenza immunisation programme 2017-18 will begin to become available for use towards the end of September.

Fluenz Tetra[®], a live attenuated intranasal influenza vaccine (LAIV) is the vaccine of choice for the majority of children again this year. Note that as a live vaccine Fluenz Tetra[®] is contraindicated in some patients. Children who have a contraindication to LAIV should be offered inactivated vaccine if appropriate.

GP Practices should place orders with vaccine holding centres in each NHS Board using the local ordering system for both Fluenz[®] Tetra and injectable flu vaccines for children. Practices must liaise closely with holding centres to ensure adequate vaccine supplies are guaranteed before organising vaccination clinics.

Fluenz Tetra[®] has a shorter shelf life (18 weeks) than other influenza vaccines. The expiry date on the nasal spray applicator should always be checked before use. Vaccine has been ordered to cover the period over which historically the flu vaccine has been used, extending from September to mid-December. It is likely that most of the Fluenz Tetra[®] will have expired by the end of December 2017. In light of this it will be important to ensure that efforts are made to vaccinate children before then.

The vaccines being supplied for children will be as follows:

Vaccine	Type	Age indication	Cohort
Fluenz Tetra [®] , AstraZeneca UK Ltd	Quadrivalent live attenuated	From 24 months to less than 18 years of age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All children aged 2-5 years (not yet at school) All primary school aged children in primary 1 to primary 7 All children from 2 years to less than 18 years in clinical risk groups
Inactivated quadrivalent influenza vaccine (split virion) [®] , Sanofi Pasteur	Quadrivalent inactivated	From 3 years of age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children in the above cohorts aged from 3 years for whom Fluenz Tetra[®] is unsuitable
Inactivated influenza vaccine (split virion) BP [®] , Sanofi Pasteur Or Influvac [®] , Inactivated trivalent influenza vaccine BGP products	Trivalent inactivated	From 6 months of age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children aged 6 months to less than 2 years in a clinical risk group Children aged less than 3 years for whom Fluenz Tetra[®] is unsuitable

For more details on the seasonal influenza immunisation programme in children and adults in 2017-18, including the ovalbumin content of vaccines see issue 62 of Scottish Vaccine Update, available [here](#).

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

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