



VACCSline NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2010 - ISSUE 14



Welcome to the winter edition of the VACCSline newsletter

Questions that VACCSline has been asked frequently in recent months form the main focus of this edition of the newsletter.

Interrupted vaccine schedules:

For all vaccines, as explained in the Green Book (DH 2006) p79 "If any course of immunisation is interrupted, it should be resumed and completed as soon as possible. There is no need to start any course of immunisation again." The Green Book can be accessed on line at: http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/PublicHealth/Healthprotection/Immunisation/Greenbook/DH_4097254

Question Hep B: A two month old has received a dose of Hep B at birth as their mother is HBsAg positive. What should happen about completing the baby's Hep B vaccination course?

Answer Hep B: The course should be resumed with the second dose given as soon as possible, the third one month later and a fourth dose at 12 months of age. For babies born to mothers infected with hepatitis B the recommended schedule is 0(birth) 1,2 and 12 months with a booster dose at preschool age. A blood test should be done at 12 months (which can be done at the same time as the vaccine is given) to ensure that the child has not been infected with hepatitis B and is protected by vaccination. Hepatitis B vaccine can be administered at the same time as any of the routine childhood vaccines.

Question HPV: If girls have been given their second dose of HPV vaccine more than two months from their first dose, when should their 3rd dose be given?

Answer HPV: The 0, 1-2, 6 month schedule should be followed as closely as possible. The third dose should be scheduled six months from the first dose and ideally at least three months from the second. In exceptional circumstance the gap between the 2nd and 3rd doses can be reduced to just one month (Green Book DH 2006). However there is no clinical data on reducing this gap to just one month; the risk of not completing the 3 dose course at all needs to be balanced with not following the standard schedule. When planning a school based HPV vaccine session, when many individuals are immunised on the same day, efforts should be made to adhere to the 0, 1-2, 6 month schedule as far as practicable possible.

Vaccine errors with Pandemic influenza A(H1N1)v vaccine:

There are two pandemic influenza vaccines; Pandemrix and Celvapan. There are some differences in the dose volume and dose number between these vaccines and according to the age and immune competence of vaccine recipient (see table below). Several queries have been received relating to errors in dose volume; care needs to be taken to prevent more occurring.

VACCINE	AGE	DOSE
Pandemrix	6 months to under 10 years	One 0.25 ml dose If immunocompromised two 0.25 ml doses 3 weeks apart
	10 years and above	One 0.5ml dose If immunocompromised two 0.5 ml doses 3 weeks apart
Celvapan	All ages including immunocompromised	Two 0.5 ml doses given at least 3 weeks apart

Question H1N1: A 12 year old has been given 0.25ml of Pandemrix today. Once they had left the surgery it was realised that they should have had 0.5ml. What action should be taken?

Answer H1N1: 0.25ml should be given today or within 24hrs to give a complete dose of 0.5ml. If this is not possible then the 0.25ml given should be discounted and a new 0.5ml dose given; no minimum interval needs to be left as this 0.5 ml dose is being given as a priming dose, not a booster.



Vaccine Advice for Clinicians Service
Call on 0845 279 9878

Age to start primary immunisations:

Question: Can the primary immunisations be given at 8 weeks (56 days) rather than at two calendar months of age?

Answer: Yes primary immunisations can routinely be given from 8 weeks of age. The baby does not have to be two complete calendar months of age. In special situations, such as long term travel, immunisations can be given from 6 weeks of age to ensure the infant has some protection before they travel. A patient specific direction would be required for this.

Oxford Vaccine Group Update

Two Meningitis B vaccine follow on studies are about to start to assess lasting protection through childhood, and effect of a booster or catch up doses. 186 participants who took part in the vaccine studies as infants will be invited to participate and 200 controls will be recruited. One or two doses of Men B vaccine will be given at 3 ½ or 5 years of age. If the participants have not already received their preschool booster of DTaP/IPV and MMR then these will also be given within the study.

Oxford Vaccine Group Immunisation Seminar Thursday 4th March 2010

The seminar is to be held at the Culham Conference Centre, Culham. The cost is £50. For details of the programme and how to register refer to <http://www.paediatrics.ox.ac.uk/ovg/teaching.html>

Increasing accessibility to Immunisation Training

This year it is proposed that several one day training events for those new to immunising will be held throughout the Thames Valley which will be accessible to all practitioners within the region. This will ensure that there will be at least one 'local' day for all and increase the frequency that this training can be accessed. For more information see contacts given below.

Upcoming Immunisation Training

Oxford	Introduction to Immunisation Study Days 21st April & 12th October, Unipart Centre Oxford	Contact: Kay Hewer 01865 421466 or http://www.oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk/Learning/Pages/Default.aspx
Buckinghamshire	3rd March 9-5pm New Skills Aylesbury 18 June 9-12.30pm Update High Wycombe 29 June 9-12.30pm Update SMH 13 September 9 –12.30 Flu update High Wycombe 23 September 9-12.30 Flu update SMH 21 October 9 –5pm New Skills High Wycombe	Contact: Education, learning & development 01296 310117
Berkshire	Contact Learning and Development for forthcoming immunisation training	Contact: Sarah Manning, Booking Administrator 0118 949 5179

If you would like this newsletter emailed directly to you then please email your request to elly.kilsby@hpa.org.uk

VACCsline provides advice on childhood & adult immunisations to health professionals in Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and West Berkshire. **Changes have been made to opening hours.**

In East Berkshire immunisation enquiries should continue to be directed to the Immunisation Co-ordinator for the PCT, Dr. Marilyn Lansley either on her office number 01344 458109 or her mobile 0771 247 1375. Her office number may be given to patients.

For advice about adult travel immunisations, practitioners are directed to www.nathnac.org (The national travel health network and centre)

VACCsline hours

Monday	10.30am to 4.15pm
Tuesday	9.30am to 4.00pm
Wednesday	9.30am to 12.30pm
Thursday	9.30am to 12.30 pm
Friday	9.30 am to 12.30 pm

Vaccine Advice for CliniCians Service

Part of Oxford Vaccine Group, CCVTM, Churchill Hospital, Old Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 7LJ, and Thames Valley Health Protection Unit, Centre for Radiation, Chemical & Environmental Hazards, HPA, Chilton, OX11 0RQ (From 1st Feb 2010)