



Welcome to the Autumn edition of the VACCsline newsletter

Influenza vaccination and egg allergy

Key points that will help in deciding the correct flu vaccine to give an individual with an egg allergy

For Children:

- The live nasal flu vaccine, Fluenz Tetra® should not be given to children with any degree of egg allergy as the safety of administering it to children with egg allergy is still being investigated
- Children with either confirmed anaphylaxis to egg **or** with egg allergy **and** severe uncontrolled asthma should be referred to specialists for immunisation in hospital
- Children with low risk egg allergy (history of mild egg allergy such as a gastrointestinal or dermatological reaction OR positive skin tests) can be vaccinated in primary care with a low ovalbumin content vaccine (less than 0.06ug for 0.5ml dose). The low ovalbumin content quadrivalent injectable vaccine Fluarix Tetra® is the vaccine of choice for children aged three years or more. As this injectable quadrivalent vaccine is only licensed in children from three years, younger children should receive a suitable trivalent, low ovalbumin content vaccine in primary care.

For adults:

- From 18 year of age the ovalbumin-free influenza Optaflu® vaccine can be used in primary care regardless of the severity of the individual's egg allergy
- If Optaflu® is not available, adults with either confirmed anaphylaxis to egg **or** with egg allergy **and** severe uncontrolled asthma should be referred to specialists for immunisation in hospital
- Other adult patients with egg allergy should be vaccinated in primary care with a low ovalbumin content vaccine (less than 0.06ug for 0.5ml dose).

A full list of influenza vaccines, the age range they can be used for and their ovalbumin (egg) content is available in the Online Green Book influenza chapter accessed at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/365793/Green_Book_Chapter_19_v6_0.pdf

Contraindications to shingles vaccination

Many enquiries relate to numerous different medications and medical conditions and if they are contraindications to individuals receiving the shingles vaccine. The shingles vaccine Zostavax® is a live vaccine. Contraindications to receiving live vaccines are listed within chapter six of the Online Green Book *contraindications and special considerations*. In addition, chapter 28a *Shingles* (herpes zoster) details other contraindications and precautions to receiving the shingles vaccine. An individual's medical history and current medications should be reviewed against the information in both of these chapters in assessing their suitability for vaccination. This information is also outlined in the questions and answers for health professionals about the shingle vaccination accessed at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/357164/PHE_Shingles_advice_for_health_professionals_2014_15_v2_FINAL_approved.pdf

The Online Green Book can be accessed: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book#the-green-book>

Courses of HPV (Gardasil®) started before September 2014

If a course of HPV vaccine was commenced before September 2014 and the girl was less than 15 years of age, if the second dose is given between six and 24 months from the first, a third vaccine is not required. This schedule matches the current vaccine schedule. A three dose course (0,1,4-6 months) is required if less than a six month interval between the 1st and 2nd dose or vaccination was commenced over 15 years of age.



Vaccine Errors

Several new brands of vaccine have been introduced in 2014. Some have similar looking packaging and sounding names. A number of errors around these new vaccines have been reported including: giving the wrong vaccine, giving a vaccine by the incorrect route and forgetting to give the Hib part of Infanrix IPV Hib. All immunisers should familiarise themselves with the current vaccines in use. A useful poster can be downloaded from the following weblink:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/308862/New-Vaccines-2014-poster-04-accessible.pdf

Other useful resources are the Q&As for healthcare professionals included within the guidance documents from PHE about specific immunisation programmes and cover vaccine errors for the specific vaccines. The Vaccine Incident Guidance document also provides actions to take in responses to vaccine errors. These documents can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation>

Cold chain incidents & informing the Screening and Immunisation Area Team

If there is a cold chain incident within your work place, the Screening and Immunisation Area Team should always be informed of the event regardless of its severity. Please do this by emailing england.tvatpublichealth@nhs.net cc'd to Heather Duignan at h.duignan@nhs.net. The Area Team will give you advice to deal with the situation. You can also contact VACCsline for initial information.

Other incidents involving immunisations should be reported to the Quality team within the Thames Valley Area Team by emailing: england.qualitythamesvalley@nhs.net

Oxford Vaccine Group Update www.ovg.ox.ac.uk

SNIFFLE-2 Study: This study will assess the safety of a live attenuated intranasal influenza vaccine (Fluenz Tetra®) in egg allergic children. As the vaccine virus is cultured in hen's eggs, the vaccine contains a small trace of egg protein which could potentially cause allergic reactions in these children. This study will add to the safety data generated by the original SNIFFLE-1 study conducted in the 2013/14 flu season in which 282 egg-allergic children were given Fluenz® without a significant allergic reaction. This study is a multi-centre study led by Southampton University. OVG is one of several centres recruiting for this study and local children who participate will be vaccinated at the Oxford Children's Hospital. Overall 730 participants will be recruited during this flu season. More information is available at <http://www.ovg.ox.ac.uk/safety-nasal-influenza-immunisation-egg-allergic-children> and interested parents should contact Emma Harper or Alex Trevelyan on 01865 857420 or email info@ovg.ac.uk

OVG Immunisation Seminar 2015: Wednesday 18th March 2015, Richard Doll Building, Old Road Campus, Headington, further details available on OVG website.

Upcoming Immunisation Training (delivered by VACCsline team)

Training dates for 2015 are currently in the process of being discussed with the learning and developments teams.

NHS e-learning programme can be accessed at: <https://elearning.nsahealth.org.uk/local/sfadmin/login/index.php>

To receive future VACCsline newsletters by direct email, send a request to richard.galuszka@phe.gov.uk

VACCsline provides advice on childhood and adult immunisations to health professionals in the Thames Valley. In East Berkshire, immunisation enquiries may also be directed to the Immunisation Lead, Dr Marilyn Lansley, either on her office number 01753 635542 or 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.

VACCsline hours	
Monday	10.30am to 4pm
Tuesday	9am to 4pm
Wednesday	9am to 4pm
Thursday	9am to 4pm
Friday	9am to 4pm

Vaccine Advice for Clinicians Service

Part of Oxford Vaccine Group, CCVTM, Churchill Hospital, Old Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 7LE, and Thames Valley Public Health England Centre, Public Health England, Chilton, OX11 0RQ.