



Welcome to the winter edition of the VACCSline newsletter

Vaccine storage and ordering

Ensuring vaccines remain potent and effective is an essential element of immunisation practice. The cold chain begins at the point of manufacture and ends when the patient receives the vaccine. Public Health England (PHE) set out the processes and standards that should be adhered to in the *Protocol for the Ordering, Storing and Handling Vaccines*: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protocol-for-ordering-storing-and-handling-vaccines>

At VACCSline we have recently updated a short checklist for auditing the cold chain against these standards. The cold chain audit tool (version 3, January 2015) can be accessed on the VACCSline resources webpage at the following link: <http://www.ovg.ox.ac.uk/Resources>

Any incidents involving the cold chain should be reported to the NHS England Area Team, screening and immunisation team for guidance and support; england.tvatpublichealth@nhs.net. Other incidents involving immunisations should be reported to the quality team within the NHS England Area Team by emailing: england.qualitythamesvalley@nhs.net

Off label vaccine use

On 9th December 2014, PHE published two new resources focusing on the use of vaccines when they are "off label". The resources below may be useful in supporting conversations between immunisers and parents.

- Vaccines stored outside the recommended temperature range leaflet: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vaccines-stored-outside-the-recommended-temperature-range-leaflet>
- Off-label vaccine leaflet: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/off-label-vaccine-leaflets>

Off label use of vaccines may occur when: the cold chain has been broken or when national guidance on the use of the vaccine is not aligned with the *Summary of Product Characteristics*, such as a different schedule or used outside of the licensed age range. Immunisers should be able to identify when they are using a vaccine off label and inform patients/parents of this.

Newsletter readers - please can you help us?

The VACCSline newsletter is published quarterly and distributed through a range of channels. The newsletter aims to be relevant for its readership but we do not know who is actually receiving and reading it. The link below is to a three question survey which aims to increase understanding of our readership. The survey has three tick box questions: job title, county of workplace and how you received the newsletter. If you could spare a moment to complete this we would be very grateful. These data will inform the content and distribution of the newsletter. Link to survey (open until 28 February 2015): <https://surveys.phe.org.uk/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=7I0H7m61>

Primary immunisation - when to start and intervals between doses

What age can the first primary immunisations be given from?

Answer: Six weeks of age if indicated by individual circumstances, such as overseas travel to an endemic country.

Can the interval between doses of the primary course be reduced?

Answer: A four week interval is recommended between each of the three doses of DTaP containing vaccine in the primary schedule although if one of these doses is given up to a week early, either inadvertently or deliberately e.g. for travel reasons, then this can be counted as a valid dose and does not need to be repeated. However, no more than one dose should be given early in the three dose schedule.

Reference: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immunisation-schedule-the-green-book-chapter-11>. For errors regarding vaccine administration please see the HPA Vaccine Incident Guidance: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/326417/Vaccine_Incident_Guidance.pdf



Introduction to immunisation training 2015

The VACCsline team will continue to lead the design and delivery of basic immunisation training during 2015. The learning and development teams from Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust, Buckinghamshire NHS and Oxford Health have kindly agreed to continue to host and administer these events. Training dates and contact details are recorded below.

Health Education Thames Valley have provided funding which means that practice nurses who require basic immunisation training can access this without charge.

From 2015 this course will be delivered over two consecutive days (in line with the National Minimum Standards for Immunisation Training). A new programme has been designed based on feedback received from previous delegates and to reflect the complexities of immunisation practice. All delegates should have an identified mentor to support them with the work-based learning required to become a competent immuniser.

Keeping up to date as an immuniser

The training standard for immunisers is available at the following link and sets out ways in which immunisers can keep up to date:

<http://www.ovg.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/Training%20standard%20for%20Immunisers%202012%20updated%20August%202014.pdf/>

VACCsline will not be delivering immunisation update training sessions during 2015 with the exception of the Oxford Vaccine Group (OVG) Immunisation Seminar (see box below).

Oxford Vaccine Group update

OVG Immunisation Seminar, Wednesday 18th March, 2015

This popular seminar provides an ideal opportunity for practitioners to both update their current immunisation knowledge and to hear the latest news on the topic of vaccination. It appeals to practice nurses, health visitors, school nurses, community nurses and general practitioners. The programme for 2015 features presentations from local and national immunisation leaders, gives a chance to pose questions to a panel of experts and back by popular demand, a debate focusing on immunisation. For further information and booking details please visit the following link:

<http://www.ovg.ox.ac.uk/immunisation-seminar>

Introduction to Immunisation Training 2015

Berkshire	25th & 26th February 2015 Bracknell Open Learning Centre TBC for October 2015	BHFT staff book through intranet Email: learningdevelopment@berkshire.nhs.uk Phone: 0118 960 5213
Buckinghamshire	30th June & 1st July 2015 18th & 9th November 2015 Medical Education Dept. High Wycombe	Email: Learning.development@buckshealthcare.nhs.uk Phone: 01494 734681
Oxfordshire	20th & 21st April 2015 16th & 17th September 2015 Unipart Conference Centre, Oxford	Oxford Health Staff only: http://apps.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/LandDPortal/Home/Welcome.aspx Email: cpd@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk Phone: 01865 902468/902105

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.