



Welcome to the autumn edition of the VACCSline newsletter

More programmes, more challenges but a great response from immunisers

Autumn heralds a busy season for immunisers who continue to deliver the routine immunisation programmes alongside: the seasonal flu programme, school based immunisations rolling out, new programmes such as MenB being introduced and catch up programmes being rapidly implemented.

The VACCSline team have been working closely with immunisers during this time, both through the advice service and also when we have been delivering teaching and training. The enthusiasm of immunisers in all contexts and their commitment to delivering timely and high quality immunisation services is very evident. At VACCSline, we are very proud to be able to support this work. The programmes will not have their intended impact without this continued effort and so it is a huge well done to everyone and please, keep up the good work!

Vaccine errors

When new immunisation programmes are introduced there may be a risk of error through delivering a programme that is unfamiliar or using a new vaccine product. A number of errors have been reported to VACCSline during September 2015. Two of which are highlighted here:

Q. Is MenB being given routinely at 12 months of age?

No. MenB vaccine will be given routinely at 12 months of age once the cohort that are eligible reach 12 months of age; which will be from 1st May 2016. Some 12 month old children have been vaccinated since the introduction of the programme. The PHE publication, 'Immunisation against meningococcal B disease for infants aged from two months—Information for healthcare professionals' has specific guidance about this on page 23 as well as clear information about all aspects of the programme. Link: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/462553/PHE_MenB_informationforhealthprofessionals_FINAL_18092015V3.pdf

The routine schedule has recently been updated to contain a foot note to reflect this: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-complete-routine-immunisation-schedule>

Q. What action should be taken if the MenACWY vaccine has not been re-constituted correctly prior to administration?

Two different MenACWY vaccines are being supplied: Nimenrix® and Menveo®. Both products require re-constituting but are different; Menveo has one vial containing Men A (powder) and the second vial containing MenCWY (solution) and Nimenrix® has one vial of powder and one pre-filled syringe of solvent. The PHE publication 'Introduction of a meningococcal ACWY immunisation programme for adolescents – Information for healthcare professionals' pages 10-11 has specific guidance on actions to take for each specific vaccine. Link: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/451525/PHE_MenACWY_Immunisation_programme_August_2015.pdf

What data should be recorded following vaccination?

The vaccine information recorded in patients can be used in a number of ways including; adverse reaction reporting and surveillance of the efficacy of new vaccination programmes.

The following information should be clearly recorded in each patient's record:

- vaccine name, product name, batch number and expiry date
- dose administered
- site(s) used – including, clear description of which injection was administered in each site, especially where two injections were administered in the same limb
- date immunisation(s) were given
- name and signature of vaccinator



Information and materials to support immunisers

Immunisation resources for health care professionals are accessible through the main PHE immunisation pages at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation>

This includes links to the Online Green Book, JCVI minutes, training materials, vaccine update and programme specific publications. This can be added as a bookmark in a web browser to aid navigation.

Please be aware that for immunisation programmes introduced in the past two years there are specific documents with detailed information for health care professionals. These documents, (often called information for health professionals,) deal with many of the practical and day to day issues around delivering immunisation programmes. As new programmes roll out these documents are updated regularly and therefore the online version should be used rather than a printed copy.

New competency framework for registered and non-registered immunisers

PHE and the RCN have recently published an Immunisation knowledge and skills competence assessment tool. This competency framework replaces the previous versions and provides a comprehensive tool to support work based learning.

Versions are available for registered and non-registered staff who immunise. Link to document: http://www.rcn.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/641918/RCN_PHE_immunisation_TOOL_2015_WEB.pdf

Oxford Vaccine Group update

Aditec Flu2: Understanding the genetic basis for immune responses to flu vaccines in children and adults

This autumn OVG will be conducting a study to gain a better understanding of the immune response in children and adults after immunisation of an influenza vaccine. A flu vaccine available in the European continent shown to enhance immune responses in children as it contains an adjuvant (something which helps stimulate the body's immune response to immunisations) known as MF59 which will be used in this study. Recruitment of children aged 13-24 months (not eligible for the routine childhood flu programme) will take place along with 30 adults aged 18-65 years old to also assess the difference in immune responses between children and adults. Participants recruited and receiving this vaccine will be provided with a vaccination history which will be forwarded to their GP practice. Full details of the study will become available at <http://www.ovg.ox.ac.uk/recruiting-studies>

Introduction to Immunisation Training 2015

(Dates for 2016 are currently being planned)

Buckinghamshire	18th & 19th November 2015 Medical Education Dept. High Wycombe	Email: Learning.development@buckshealthcare.nhs.uk Phone: 01494 734681
Oxford Vaccine Group Immunisation Seminar	SAVE THE DATE 17th March 2016	For bookings and more information please see: http://www.ovg.ox.ac.uk/immunisation-seminar

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 Public Health England South East Centre, Chilton, OX11 0RQ &
Oxford Vaccine Group, CCVTM, Churchill Hospital, Old Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 7LE,