



VACCS line

Quarterly newsletter

Spring 2006—Issue 1

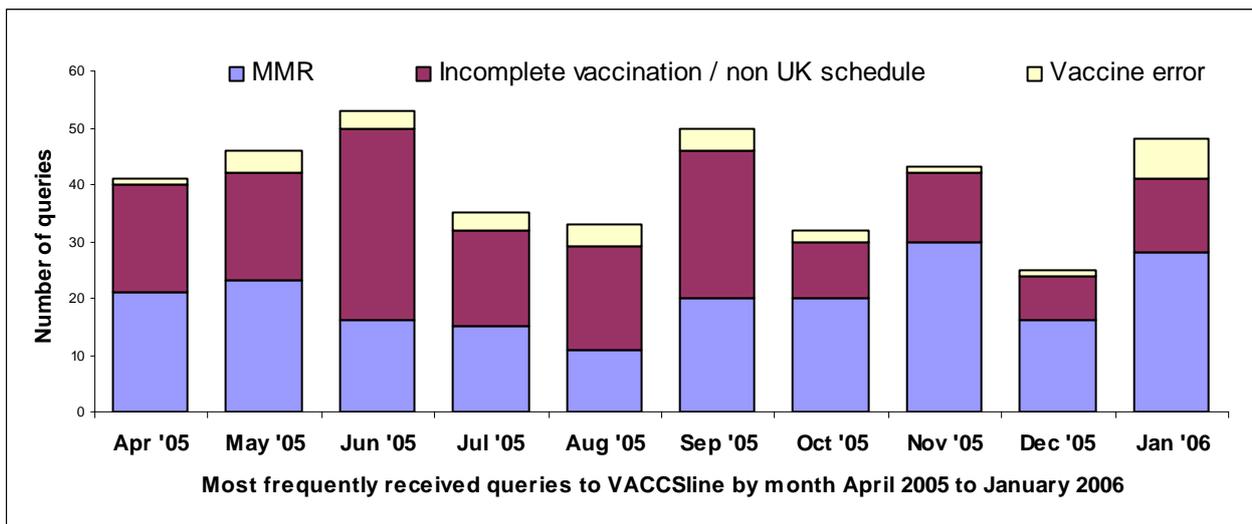


THAMES VALLEY
HEALTH
PROTECTION UNIT

VACCS line is a vaccination advice service for clinicians within the Thames Valley Strategic Health Authority currently serving Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, jointly developed and managed by the Thames Valley Health Protection Unit and the Oxford Vaccine Group (University of Oxford)

The service has been running since April 2005. In the 10 month period to Jan 06 we received 1078 enquiries: 54% from practice nurses, 28% from health visitors and 8% from GPs.

The main subjects of these queries are illustrated below. In the vaccine error category, most frequent queries involved: administration of incorrect vaccine, insufficient time between doses, leakage during administration leading to incomplete dose given.



Common Queries

To assist your practice we have included some commonly received enquiries

Question 1 Unfinished primary course

I have a patient aged 2 ¼ years, she has had two primary doses at 2 and 3 mths of age. The 3rd dose, due at 4 mths was never given. What should I do?

Answer: Give the 3rd dose now.

Remember; if a child started their primary course but did not complete, continue with the course of immunisations. There is no need to repeat doses nor to restart a course. A flow diagram for vaccination of individuals with uncertain or incomplete immunisation status is displayed on the HPA website

<http://www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics-az/vaccination/uncertain-im-status.pdf>

Question 2 Children newly arrived from other countries

In our practice we recently had a family of 4 children newly arrive from overseas. Parents have documents listing the children's immunisations but I am not exactly sure which vaccinations they have had. What should I do?

Answer: To clarify what immunisations they received in their country of origin, the WHO website displays the immunisation schedule for each country in an easy to read format. www.who.int/immunization_monitoring/en/globalsummazry/scheduleselect.cfm This should help you determine what vaccines they have had and what else is needed.

For children coming to the UK part way through their immunisation schedule, they should be transferred onto the UK schedule and immunised as appropriate for their age. Unless you are able to establish a reliable vaccine history, children should be assumed to be unimmunised and a full course of immunisations planned. (Ref CDSC, Immunisation Dept, Sept 2004)

Question 3 Needle came away from syringe during injection

Whilst immunising a child today in clinic, the needle came away from the syringe; I don't know how much vaccine they received.

Answer: For any paediatric vaccine, if the needle comes away from the syringe and you think they did not receive the complete dose, repeat again immediately. To ensure best practice, double check that the syringe and needle are firmly attached before each injection.

RECENT CHANGE TO VACCINE SUPPLY OF Hib

As explained in Vaccine update 122, April 2006: JCVI have recommended that the combined Hib/MenC vaccine (Menitorix) can be used where single Hib vaccine was previously recommended.

Immunisation Training

Dates for Oxfordshire

10 May—Memorial Hall, Kings Sutton

28 June—Guildhall, Abingdon

22 September—Exeter Hall, Kidlington

A booking form is available on the PCT learning directory or contact Kaye Hewer,
Training Administrator Tel: 01993 209543

VACCS line service is for local health professionals only. Please do not pass our telephone number onto patients.

For adult travel vaccination queries, please refer to one of the many travel health services such as NaTHNaC (National Travel Health Network & Centre) on: 020 7380 9234

VACCS line:

01865 225918 email: vaccs.line@paediatrics.ox.ac.uk

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, Richards Building, Old Road, Headington.