



VACCSline NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2009 - ISSUE 13



Welcome to the Autumn edition of the VACCSline newsletter

Current Issues

Pandemic Influenza A(H1N1)v 2009 (swine flu) vaccination

As the immunisation programme begins, useful resources are being created by the Department of Health and published at the following link;

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Flu/Swineflu/InformationandGuidance/Vaccinationprogramme/index.htm>

These resources include training slides, green book chapters, FAQ's on preparation and administration issues, guidance for clinicians on use of the vaccines in pregnant women and a training video. All immunisers are encouraged to proactively check and utilise these resources to maximise uptake of this vaccine and support them in delivering a high quality service.

Weekly adverse drug reaction summaries are available on the MHRA website;

<http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Safetyinformation/Swinefluinformation/swinefluvaccines/index.htm>

COVER data

Child health systems produce quarterly vaccine uptake data known as COVER. The system relies on immunisers reporting all immunisations given to children up to the age of 18 in a timely manner. Both scheduled and unscheduled vaccines should be notified. COVER data is reported as the percentage of the total population who are immunised (proportional data). Children who transfer out of area will remain part of the total population unless child health are informed otherwise.

Frequently Asked Questions

How long should intervals be between vaccines?

This autumn, VACCSline has received an increase in enquiries about intervals between vaccines. Often the enquiries have been about girls due HPV vaccine who have received travel vaccines or seasonal flu vaccines in the days or weeks prior to the HPV vaccine. More recently the questions have been about intervals between the swine flu vaccine and other vaccines such as seasonal flu.

If the vaccines received are not live vaccines there is no need to leave a gap between the different vaccinations. They can be given at the same time or with any number of days between them. Ideally vaccines given at the same time should be given in different limbs or if this is not possible a different site in the same limb separated by at least 2.5cm.

Can children receive the 12 and 13 month boosters together?

Yes. The June edition of *Vaccine Update* reported that the JCVI advised that the Hib/Men C, PCV and MMR vaccines could be given together. Practitioners may choose to deliver all three vaccines at 12 months, or at 13 months, or keep to the routine schedule. The number of maternally derived antibodies to measles, mumps and rubella in infants decrease prior to 12 months of age therefore MMR vaccines given from 12 months of age will produce an immune response. The Hib and meningococcal chapters of the Green Book were updated to reflect this on 24 August 2009 .

How safe is the HPV vaccine?

Since the HPV programme began in September 08 more than 1.4 million doses of vaccine have been administered. The MHRA published first year safety review of Cervarix on 13th October 2009. The report summarises data collated from the yellow card scheme. Most reports have related to signs and symptoms of recognised side effects, which are not generally serious. The report can be available at; <http://www.mhra.gov.uk/home/groups/pl-a/documents/websiteresources/cpm059936>

Contraindications to the vaccine remain unchanged, including a confirmed anaphylactic reaction to a previous dose of HPV vaccine, or a confirmed anaphylactic reaction to any components of the vaccine.



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Vaccine Advice for Clinicians Service
Call on 0845 279 9878
or email vaccs.line@paediatrics.ox.ac.uk

VACCSline newsletter survey

Thank you to everyone who responded to the online survey. The results of the survey were very positive indicating the newsletter is useful and relevant to practice. The winner of the free place at the 2010 Oxford Vaccine Group immunisation seminar will be notified shortly. If you would like to suggest any topics for inclusion in the newsletter, please email us at VACCSline.

Oxford Vaccine Group Update

Pandemic Influenza A(H1N1)v 2009 (swine flu) vaccine study

A study comparing Pandemrix (GSK) and Celvapan (Baxter) vaccines in children 6 months to 12 years started in late September 2009. The study aims to directly compare the rates of reactions, safety and immune response to these vaccines in children. Previous studies of these vaccines have collected data using different methods, resulting in data that is not easily comparable. This vaccine study will address this issue. 960 children have been enrolled and randomly assigned to receive either Pandemrix (GSK) or Celvapan (Baxter) vaccine. All children in the study have now received their first vaccine dose and many have received their second dose. The study will be complete in the early part of December and the data will be available shortly after. All children are being provided with a vaccine certificate and immunisation records have been updated where available. GPs have also been informed if their patient is in the study.

Oxford Vaccine Group Immunisation Seminar Thursday 4th March 2010

Planning is underway for the next OVG immunisation seminar. If there are any topics you would like covered please email your ideas to vaccs.line@paediatrics.ox.ac.uk. Details of the programme and venue are yet to be confirmed but visit the OVG website for further information as it becomes available <http://www.paediatrics.ox.ac.uk/ovg/>

Upcoming Immunisation Training

Oxford	<i>Improving Immunisation in Primary Care</i> 10th Dec (12-3) Focused workshops	Contact: Marie.mcLoughlin@oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk
Buckinghamshire (2010)	10th March 9-5pm New Skills Aylesbury 18 June 9-12.30pm Update High Wycombe 29 June 9-12.30pm Update SMH 13 July 9 –5pm New Skills High Wycombe 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. In East Berkshire immunisation enquiries should continue to be directed to the Immunisation Co-coordinator 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

VACCSline hours

Monday	10.30am to 4.15pm
Tuesday	9am to 4.15pm
Wednesday	9am to 4.15pm
Thursday	9am to 4 pm
Friday	9.30 am to 1.30 pm

Vaccine Advice for Clinicians Service

Part of Oxford Vaccine Group, CCVTM, Churchill Hospital, Old Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 7LJ, and John Eccles House, Oxford Science Park Thames Valley Health Protection Unit, Oxford OX4 4GP