



VACCS line

Quarterly newsletter

Autumn 2007 — Issue 5



THAMES VALLEY
HEALTH
PROTECTION UNIT

VACCSline has been running since April 2005 providing consistent advice on childhood & adult non-travel immunisations to health professionals across Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and West Berkshire. For advice about adult travel immunisations, practitioners are directed to the National Travel Health Network and Centre (0845 602 6712 Mon-Fri 9-12 & 2.4.40pm)

VACCSline can be contacted by either phone or email. Our answer phone is available to leave queries on and we aim to return calls promptly. Your local health protection unit can be contacted with any enquiries

What to expect from us - When we answer vaccination queries we take the opportunity to talk through the rationale behind the advice. Our first reference guide is usually the Green Book *Immunisation against Infectious Diseases (2006)* and we frequently refer callers to it. Most questions can be answered from this document but we appreciate that some practitioners may find sections of the Green Book difficult to interpret and we are happy to talk through issues with you. The Green Book is available in paperback however updates will be made available online at <http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Healthandsocialcaretopics/Greenbook/index.htm>

When you contact us - please make sure that you have comprehensive clinical information on the patient when you call as this facilitates our response to your questions.

VACCSline

Mon	10.30 to 4.15pm
Tues	9 to 1 pm
Wed	9 to 1pm
Thurs	9 to 4 pm
Fri	9 to 1 pm

Just as you thought no more changesalong comes the Hib Catch-up Programme

Studies have shown that protection from the primary schedule of three doses of Hib vaccine wanes during infancy. From 10 September 2007 the Department of Health introduced a catch-up Hib campaign for children born between 13 March 2003 and 3 September 2005. These children were both too young to have been offered a Hib booster in the 2003 national campaign and too old to have been offered the Hib booster introduced for all children at 12 months of age (as combined Hib/Men C vaccine) in September 2006. This booster extends protection against Hib infection through childhood and is expected to further lower rates of Hib disease.

The campaign has been designed to deliver a safe and effective booster vaccine in the most logistically simple and cost-effective way. A further aim of the programme is to bring the age of the pre-school booster down to 3yrs 4mths of age ideally 3 years after completion of the primary course. This is currently standard in some but not all PCTs within the Thames Valley. Follow the links below for the Chief Medical Officer letter detailing the catch up.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Professionalletters/Chiefmedicalofficerletters/DH_076964

FAQs and publications details can be found at: <http://www.immunisation.nhs.uk/newsitems.php?id=72>

publications can be ordered by emailing: dh@prolog.uk.com

A note on programme changes

Immunisation programmes will always evolve, meeting the demand to improve the control of infectious diseases through vaccination. As a result of changes in epidemiology, diligent surveillance and evidence from clinical trials the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) continues to provide independent scientific advice for the most effective way to use vaccines in the UK schedule. If we are not progressive in our approach to immunisation then children may be vulnerable to otherwise preventable diseases. One of the challenges of being an immuniser is adapting to changes and then delivering programmes in a timely and effective way. After the September 2006 changes the Hib catch-up programme should seem quite simple!

Increased incidence of Measles

The number of cases of measles in 2006 was the highest number ever recorded since the current method of monitoring began in 1995. In 2007 this trend looks set to continue. From January to March 2007 uptake of the MMR vaccine was at 88% for the first dose but only 74% for the second dose. This upward trend in measles would be reversed if uptake of the second dose of MMR reaches 90% or above. After the first dose between 5 - 10% of children are not protected against measles hence two doses of MMR will give better protection. It is important that children complete their full course of MMR vaccine.

Introductions and Congratulations

For those of you who may be regular users of Vaccline, you may have noticed a change of personnel. Karen Ford, who was previously answering Vaccline queries is currently on maternity leave and we would like to wish her congratulations on the birth of her son Thomas in May. Judith Moreton, former Immunisation Coordinator for Oxfordshire, latterly at the Department of Health and now officially retired is covering her maternity leave. We also have a new member of the team, Sarah Lang who joined us in July. Sarah has been working in travel health since 1999 in both travel clinics and an occupational health setting. She has latterly worked as a practice nurse in Hemel Hempstead delivering the whole range of immunisations and providing travel health training for Bucks County Training and the University of Hertfordshire.

Upcoming Immunisation Training		
Oxfordshire	29 November 2007 8 March 2008	Contact: Kay Hewer Training Administrator 01865 336815 http://nww.oxweb.nhs.uk
Buckinghamshire	9 November	WGH—Introductory day for new immunisers Further info—County Training Development Team 01296 310117
West Berkshire		Thames Valley University's Enhancing clinical practice module Booking forms to enrol for the module are available on the Berkshire PCT intranet

VACCSline 01865 225918

Email: vaccs.line@paediatrics.ox.ac.uk

The VACCSline service is for local health professionals only.

Please do not pass our telephone number onto patients

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. Oxford. OX3 7LG