



# VACCS line

## Quarterly newsletter

### Spring 2008 — Issue 7



Welcome to the spring edition of the VACCSline newsletter

### Current Topics in Immunisation

#### Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccine

Routine immunisation of year 8 girls with HPV vaccine begins this Autumn. The programme is expected to be delivered through schools, but individual PCTs can design their own model of delivery. The Department of Health (DH) has produced a communications pack, including a new green book chapter, CMO letter, fact sheet etc and this is expected to be distributed in April/May. Resources will also be made available on the website [www.immunisation.nhs.uk](http://www.immunisation.nhs.uk). A public communication campaign is also planned culminating in a media campaign in September.

**Vaccine—** Two vaccines are being considered for use and a procurement process is underway. This process is expected to be completed and a decision made by June. The two currently available vaccines are not interchangeable, which is important to consider if completing a course of vaccination initiated elsewhere. The Department of Health expects to offer more detailed guidance on immunisation outside the national programme. In the interim some PCTs have issued guidance on use outside the programme and clinicians need to assess each case individually.

**Cold Chain—** The vaccines are very costly and wastage must be minimised. This is a good opportunity for practitioners to assess how robust the cold chain is at their place of work. Please review Chapter 3 of the Green Book for guidance on storage, distribution and disposal of vaccines.

#### Children transferring in from overseas

Many calls to VACCSline are about children who have moved to the UK from overseas. Parents may or may not have records. If they bring the records and the parents can speak some English you may be able to work out the immunisation history. However the parents may have no written records but know the names in their first language. What can we do in practice about this? Interpreters either in surgery or via language line can ensure the information you are getting and assist in the process of informed consent. Also, the UK immunisation leaflets are translated into many languages, and these translations are on line. Practices are encouraged to order a stock of languages that are most commonly used and to access them on line as necessary. Some parents are reassured to be offered information in their first language and they can be a valuable tool. This is the link to the documents;

- ◆ <http://www.immunisation.nhs.uk/Library/Publications/Translations>

Current immunisation schedules from around the world can be accessed on the WHO website;

- ◆ <http://www.who.int/vaccines/GlobalSummary/Immunization/ScheduleSelect.cfm>

but remember this is a guide to what is currently recommended and not a guarantee of what your patient has received. Finally, once you have the records established and need to plan the new schedule, use the HPA algorithm: Vaccination of Individuals with Uncertain or Incomplete Immunisation Status:

- ◆ [http://www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics\\_az/vaccination/algorithm\\_2007.pdf](http://www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/vaccination/algorithm_2007.pdf)

This algorithm is structured into age bands guiding you through what each child needs to come into line with the UK schedule. It also lists general immunisation principles to help navigate the process.

**Vaccine Advice for Clinicians Service**

Call on 01865 225918 or email [vaccs.line@paediatrics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:vaccs.line@paediatrics.ox.ac.uk)

## VACCSline User Questionnaire

In 2007 a questionnaire was circulated to past users of VACCSline. Of 200 users, thirty two percent (64) responded. The main findings from this survey were that the majority of respondents found the VACCSline service useful, valuable and helpful. All service users described the advice given as clear and 62 were confident in the advice they received. Within priorities for development, practitioners were keen to have a rapid initial response to calls. Taking this into consideration VACCSline now operates over 5 days by both telephone and email. When the Immunisation Advisors are not available the Thames Valley Health Protection Team can answer urgent enquiries on 01865 226858.

## Oxford Vaccine Group Study Day

The 2008 OVG annual study day was held on 26 February at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford. The day, chaired by Linda Diggle was a great success. The 2009 day is already in the planning. Details will be published in future VACCSline newsletters and on the OVG website: <http://www.paediatrics.ox.ac.uk/>

## NURSING in PRACTICE AWARDS 2008

The Nursing in Practice awards reward best practice in a variety of clinical areas, recognising excellence and innovation in primary care. One of these areas is childhood immunisations and applications are encouraged from both individuals and teams. Projects need to have been completed within the last 18 months. Full details can be found at the following website: [www.nursingpractice.com/awards](http://www.nursingpractice.com/awards).

## Your Input...

In the Spring newsletter we asked practitioners to contact us with some examples of good or innovative practice. No one has shared anything with us yet! We are keen to share good practice in this newsletter, we know lots of good work is happening from the phone calls we receive Reports should be no more than 200 words and can be emailed to the VACCSline.

## Upcoming Immunisation Training

<b>Oxfordshire</b>	17 June 2008— Immunisation Study Day 23 September 2008—Immunisation Study Day	Contact: Kay Hewer, Training Administrator 01865 336815 <a href="http://nww.oxweb.nhs.uk">http://nww.oxweb.nhs.uk</a>
<b>Buckinghamshire</b>	Immunisation Updates; 16/06/08 9am –1pm SMH 23/06/08 9am –1pm MKH 24/06/08 9am –1pm WGH	Contact: County Training Development Team 01296 310069 <a href="http://www.countytraining.buckshealth.nhs.uk/clinical.htm117">www.countytraining.buckshealth.nhs.uk/clinical.htm117</a>
<b>West Berkshire</b>	1st July 2008 HPA Immunisation Study Day Oakwood Centre, Woodley	Contact: Learning & Development at Berkshire East/West PCTs

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, Monday – Fri day 9 - 12pm & 2 - 4.30pm.

## VACCSline Hours

<b>Monday</b>	<b>10.30am to 4.15pm</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>9am to 1 pm</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>9am to 1pm</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>9am to 4 pm</b>
<b>Fri day</b>	<b>9am to 1 pm</b>

## 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