



VACCS line

Quarterly newsletter

Summer 2008 — Issue 8



Welcome to the summer edition of the VACCSline newsletter

VACCSline Calls

Between March and May 2008, VACCSline received 403 immunisation enquiries from 268 different health care professionals. Practice nurses made 71% of these enquiries, Health Visitors 14%, GPs 5% and School Health Nurses 3%, the remaining calls were from practice managers or other health care professionals. Immunisation enquiries cover a wide range of topics.

However there are three issues that comprise almost 50% of all contacts with VACCSline; Travel immunisations — 17% (67), non UK schedule 17% (66) and incomplete immunisation status 13% (52). The previous newsletter (Spring 08) discussed immunisation of children moving to the UK schedule and can be looked at for ideas of advising/immunising these families. Some of this information is also pertinent for those with incomplete immunisation status.

The age band of the enquiries' patient/group of patients was also recorded (see table opposite for results).

Age Band (years)	Under 1	1-10	10-18	18+
Distribution	21%	49%	10%	20%

Current Topics in Immunisation

Vaccine Supply Newsletter

Vaccine Update is a monthly newsletter for immunisation health professionals. It is published on www.immunisation.nhs.uk every month. It includes up-to-date information on vaccine supply, immunisation policy and information resources, and vaccine ordering. You can also register on the immunisation website to receive the updates automatically by email. All immunisers should ensure they read this publication each month to remain current with supply issues. (June edition covers the latest issues regarding the supply of the following vaccines — Pediacel, Repevax, Infanrix IPV and Menitorix.)

Three injections for Pre School Booster

VACCSline has received many calls regarding the pre school booster immunisations during the Hib catch-up. Due to vaccine supply issues, children attending for their pre school booster vaccine should receive three vaccines;

Infanrix IPV (DTaP/IPV) or Repevax (dTaP/IPV) **plus** Menitorix (Hib/Men C) **plus** MMR.

These immunisations should be given at the same time. Two vaccines can be given in the same limb as with the 3rd primary immunisation. Nurses should be able to explain confidently why this is being given and instruct the parent/carer on good holding technique. The extra injection should add little time onto the process. The child is then immunised after one visit causing minimising anxiety and upset whilst utilising allocated appointments appropriately. This situation is expected to continue until the end of the Hib catch up programme (March 2009)

Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) Tetanus Statement

The JCVI issued a statement on tetanus immunisation on 4 June 2008. The statement can be viewed at the following link;

http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/jcvi/Tetanus_statement_JCVI_040608.pdf

VACCSline has a NEW PHONE NUMBER from 11 August
0845 2799 878

Vaccine Errors

Between February and May 2008, fifteen practitioners contacted VACCsline regarding immunisation errors. Twelve concerned an incorrect vaccine being administered, two reported incorrect intervals between vaccines and one reported a spillage during an immunisation.

Of the incorrect vaccines reported most common was Hib/Men C (Menitorix) being given instead of Meningitis C during the primary immunisation. Care must be taken to check vaccines prior to use. In fridges, Meningitis C and Hib/Men C vaccines should be stored away from each other. The Immunisation Schedule poster available from the Department of Health has colour coded the immunisations to minimise immunisation errors.

Other News

East Berkshire enquiries

Immunisation enquiries in East Berkshire should continue to be directed to Dr. Marilyn Lansley, Immunisation Co-coordinator for the PCT either on her office number 01344 458109 or her mobile 0771 247 1375. Her office number may be given to patients.

VACCsline opening hours to be extended

From 15 September VACCsline's opening hours are being extended. Following the survey of VACCsline users that was carried out last year this was identified as a priority area. The full hours can be seen in the box at the bottom right of the page.

Meningitis B vaccine study

The results of the meningitis B study carried out by the Oxford Vaccine Group in 2006/7 were promising. Further studies of the vaccine are planned with recruitment beginning across the Thames Valley over the next few weeks. Information letters will be sent shortly.

Upcoming Immunisation Training

Oxfordshire	23 Sept 2008— Immunisation Study Day 1 Oct 2008—Immunisation Assessor Workshop	Contact: Kay Hewer, Training Administrator 01865 336815 http://nww.oxweb.nhs.uk
Bucks	4th August 08 — Immunisation for new in post practice nurses 24th Sept 08—Flu & Pneumo, High Wycombe 30th Sept 08— Flu & Pneumo, SMH	Contact: Education, learning & development 01296 310117
Milton Keynes	26th Sept 08—Flu & Pneumo	Contact: Karen.folwell@mkpct.nhs.uk
West Berkshire	Contact Learning and Development for forthcoming immunisation training Sarah Manning, Booking Administrator 0118 949 5179	

VACCsline has been running since April 2005 providing consistent advice on childhood & adult (non travel) immunisations to health professionals across Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes and West Berkshire.

For advice about adult travel immunisations, practitioners are directed to the National Travel Health Network and Centre – 0845 602 6712, Monday – Friday 9 - 12pm & 2 - 4.30pm.

VACCsline hours - from September

Monday	10.30am to 4.15pm
Tuesday	9am to 4.30pm
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 Thames Valley Health Protection Unit, John Eccles House, Oxford Science Park, Oxford