



Infection report

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Provisional vaccine coverage estimates for the new meningococcal B (MenB) immunisation programme for England, January 2016

Preliminary vaccine coverage estimates for the first routine cohort eligible for infant Meningococcal B immunisation are 94.0% for one dose and 84.8% for two doses by six months of age (evaluated at the end of January 2016).

Introduction

Meningococcal B (MenB) vaccination was introduced from 1 September 2015 for infants due to receive their primary immunisations starting at two months of age on or after 1 September 2015 (i.e. those babies born on or after 1 July 2015). The vaccine is offered alongside other routine immunisations at two and four months of age, with a booster dose at 12-13 months. A limited one-off catch-up programme was also delivered targeting infants born in May and June 2015. This report describes the first MenB coverage estimates for one and two doses of vaccine received by these cohorts when evaluated at six months (26 weeks) of age (i.e. between November 2015 and January 2016).

Methods

In order to rapidly assess vaccine coverage of this newly implemented immunisation programme, PHE has put in place a temporary sentinel surveillance system. This uses general practice (GP) level MenB vaccine coverage data automatically uploaded via participating GP IT suppliers to the ImmForm* website on a monthly basis. These data are then validated and analysed by PHE to check data completeness, identify and query any anomalous results and describe epidemiological trends.

Monthly MenB vaccine coverage data are collected for each cohort reaching six months of age in the survey month (table 1) using the following definitions:

- *Denominator:* the number of infants in a GP practice who, in the survey month, reach 26 weeks of age;
- *Numerators:* the number of infants in the denominator who received (a) 1st dose and (b) 2nd dose of Bexsero® (MenB vaccine) from eight weeks of age up to 26 weeks of age, including vaccinations given by other healthcare providers.

* ImmForm is the system used by Public Health England to record vaccine coverage data for some immunisation programmes and to provide vaccine ordering facilities for the NHS

Table 1. Birth cohorts evaluated for MenB vaccination reaching six months of age before 31 January 2016, following introduction of the programme in September 2015

Cohort	Birth dates	Number of doses offered	Vaccine coverage survey month
Catch-up cohort 1	03/05/2015 - 01/06/2015	One	November 2015
Catch-up cohort 2	02/06/2015 - 02/07/2015	Two	December 2015
(First) routine cohort	03/07/2015 - 02/08/2015	Two	January 2016

Vaccine coverage is calculated as the total number of patients who have received the vaccination (numerators) as a percentage of the number of patients registered (denominator).

GP data are aggregated by NHS England organisations (Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), Area Teams (ATs) and NHS England Local Teams (LTs), and by Local Authorities (LAs).

Participation and data quality

Due to data quality issues, MenB coverage data from two of four GP IT suppliers were excluded from the November 2015 collection (catch-up cohort 1), and data from one supplier were excluded from the December 2015 collection (catch-up cohort 2). This partial reporting means coverage estimates should be interpreted with caution. National coverage estimates for catch-up cohort 1 include data representing 83% of GP practices in England, while data for catch-up cohort 2 represent 84% of practices (table 2). For the January 2016 collection (routine cohort), all data were used representing 96% of GP practices.

As a result of the incomplete data for the catch-up cohorts, CCG level MenB coverage estimates are only provided for the routine cohort.

Results

Based on data from 83% of GP practices in England, coverage for the first catch-up cohort (born May 2015), eligible for one dose of MenB vaccine, was 76.6% when evaluated at six months of age in November 2015 (table 2). This ranged by AT from 62.9% (London) to 86.7% (Bath, Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire).

Based on data from 84% of GP practices in England, coverage for the second catch-up cohort (born June 2015), was 88.8% for one dose and 75.2% for two doses of vaccine when evaluated at six months of age in December 2015 (table 2). This ranged by AT from 80.3% (London) to 94.2% (Durham, Darlington and Tees) for one dose, and from 60.4% (Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly) to 83.9% (Bath, Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire) for two doses.

Based on 96% of GP practices in England, coverage for the first routine cohort (born July 2015) was 94.0% for one dose when evaluated at six months of age in January 2016 (table 2). This ranged by AT from 89.4% (London) to 97.8% (North Yorkshire and Humber). Of 25 ATs, 16 achieved over 95% coverage for one dose. Coverage for two doses was 84.8%, ranging from 77.1% (Merseyside AT) to 90.2% (North Yorkshire and Humber AT).

Coverage data for the routine cohort by CCG are presented in an [appendix](#) to this report

Discussion

Preliminary vaccine coverage at six months of age for the new childhood MenB programme indicates the vaccine has been accepted and delivered well, with high coverage achieved in both catch-up cohorts and the first routine cohort eligible for vaccination. Infants born after 1 July 2015 who were not vaccinated at six months of age continue to be eligible for their primary immunisations and it is anticipated that coverage in this cohort will increase when evaluated at 12 months of age.

The automated MenB GP data collection is a temporary sentinel surveillance programme set up to provide assurance that the vaccine has been well accepted. It will be replaced by data from the routine quarterly COVER (Cover of vaccination evaluated rapidly) reporting scheme which will evaluate two dose MenB vaccine coverage for children at 12 months of age and booster MenB coverage at 24 months of age using data extracted from Child Health Information Systems (CHIS) [1]. The first quarterly COVER evaluation to include MenB coverage will be published in December 2016, for children aged 12 months of age in the July to September 2016 quarter.

The introduction of MenB immunisation has been supported by a comprehensive media and communications campaign in partnership with health partners and meningitis charities, that has led to significant reporting in national, local and parenting media and social media. New patient information leaflets and posters have also supported the campaign, and comprehensive guidance has been added to the NHS Choices website. Existing children's immunisation information booklets and leaflets have been amended to reflect the new schedule. A training factsheet and video for health professionals has also been produced.

Further information

Further information relating to the implementation of this vaccination programme is available from the PHE website document collection, [Meningococcal B \(MenB\) vaccination programme](#).

Table 2. Vaccine coverage for the MenB infant vaccination programme introduced 1 September 2015, for infants evaluated at six months of age by NHS England Area Team

Area Team	Catch-up cohort 1 (born May 2015)		Catch-up cohort 2 (born June 2015)			Routine cohort (born July 2015)		
	Participating GPs (%)	Dose 1 coverage (%)	Participating GPs (%)	Dose 1 coverage (%)	Dose 2 coverage (%)	Participating GPs (%)	Dose 1 coverage (%)	Dose 2 coverage (%)
Cheshire, Warrington and Wirral (Q44)	92.9	80.2	94.6	90.9	76.4	97.6	97.7	90.0
Durham, Darlington and Tees (Q45)	94.1	83.5	92.4	94.2	76.9	96.5	97.7	88.0
Greater Manchester (Q46)	63.0	74.6	67.1	88.1	70.1	92.8	89.7	77.7
Lancashire (Q47)	96.9	75.8	97.8	90.3	76.8	97.3	95.9	87.8
Merseyside (Q48)	89.2	72.9	90.0	83.2	69.6	91.8	91.0	77.1
Cumbria, Northumb., Tyne and Wear (Q49)	92.2	80.4	93.5	92.7	82.4	96.9	96.5	89.2
N Yorkshire and Humber (Q50)	92.6	82.2	91.7	93.6	77.8	97.8	97.8	90.2
S Yorkshire and Bassetlaw (Q51)	93.9	79.3	92.5	93.0	78.5	97.7	97.1	88.3
W Yorkshire (Q52)	96.3	82.2	94.8	92.0	78.6	99.1	96.8	85.3
Arden, Herts and Worcs. (Q53)	80.3	80.5	83.5	90.2	79.3	95.2	94.8	86.5
Birmingham and Black Country (Q54)	82.6	72.7	82.8	86.3	71.0	93.5	93.5	80.9
Derbyshire and Notts. (Q55)	89.5	79.6	93.2	93.1	80.4	98.9	96.6	90.0
East Anglia (Q56)	88.9	83.2	88.8	91.8	78.8	97.5	96.8	89.6
Essex (Q57)	90.1	83.3	91.9	92.5	78.7	98.8	96.0	87.6
Hertfordshire and the S Midlands (Q58)	88.2	83.4	86.9	93.0	78.3	96.2	96.2	89.0
Leicestershire and Lincolnshire (Q59)	93.9	81.3	90.2	93.6	78.9	98.4	96.6	88.4
Shropshire and Staffordshire (Q60)	89.0	82.3	89.8	90.0	82.1	91.9	95.1	88.6
Bath, Gos., Swindon and Wilts (Q64)	78.4	86.7	75.7	92.8	83.9	96.3	97.4	88.6
Bristol, N Som. and S. Gos. (Q65)	89.6	83.8	93.7	93.0	79.7	96.0	95.5	86.4
Devon, Cornwall and Scilly Isles (Q66)	57.8	82.5	79.8	85.4	60.4	94.6	92.7	84.5
Kent and Medway (Q67)	46.4	73.4	47.2	89.9	79.3	95.2	95.6	81.9
Surrey and Sussex (Q68)	85.1	78.9	84.6	90.0	79.9	98.8	93.4	85.4
Thames Valley (Q69)	79.2	75.7	81.8	88.2	78.2	95.7	92.3	87.4
Wessex (Q70)	78.2	80.5	82.0	92.2	80.3	95.5	94.7	88.9
London (Q71)	79.2	62.9	80.9	80.3	66.3	95.5	89.4	78.5
ENGLAND	82.8	76.6	84.4	88.8	75.2	96.0	94.0	84.8