



Infection report

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Preliminary vaccine coverage estimates for the new meningococcal B (MenB) immunisation programme for England, update to the end of April 2016

Preliminary vaccine coverage estimates for those eligible for infant Meningococcal B immunisation are 95.5% for one dose and 87.9% for two doses by six months of age (evaluated at the end of April 2016).

Introduction

This report presents Meningococcal B (MenB) vaccine coverage data for one and two doses of vaccine by six months (26 weeks) of age, evaluated at the end of April 2016, updating previous data reported for the period November 2015 to January 2016 [1].

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.

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 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.

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)).

* 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

Participation and data quality

MenB dose two coverage data from one of four data suppliers representing 7-8% of GP practices in the survey is consistently lower than other data suppliers. We are currently working with ImmForm to resolve this data issue. These data are therefore provisional and to be interpreted with caution.

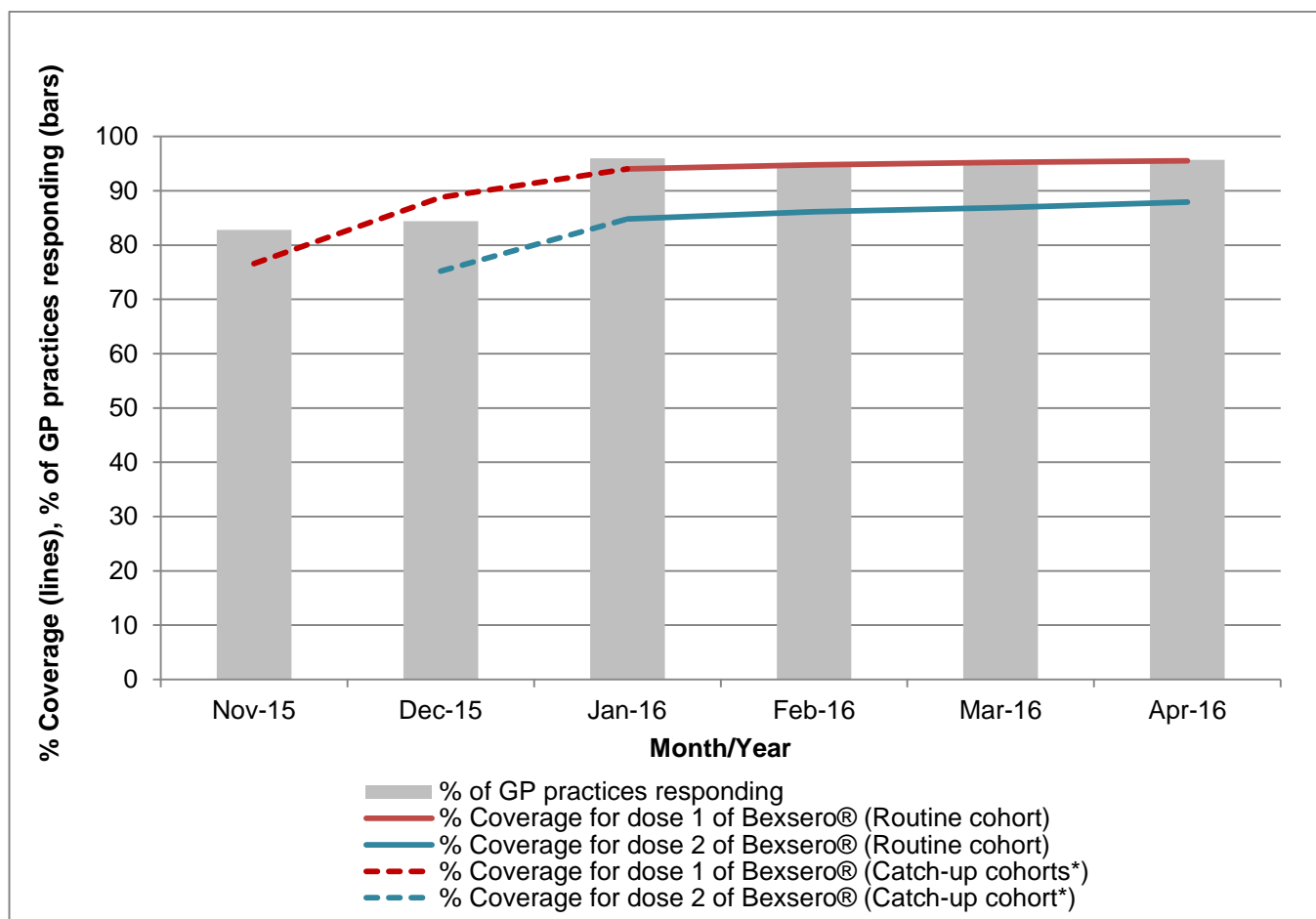
Results

In total MenB vaccine coverage data was available for 7298/7625 (95.7%) GP practices in April 2016. The proportion of GP practices represented ranged by AT from 89.9% (Merseyside) to 99.1% (North Yorkshire and Humber).

Between February and April 2016 national coverage of dose one increased from 94.8% to 95.5%. In April 2016, this ranged by AT from 91.8% (Devon, Cornwall and Scilly Isles) to 98.4% (North Yorkshire and Humber) (table 1). National coverage of dose two also increased between February and April 2016 from 86.1% to 87.9%. In April 2016 this ranged by AT from 82.7% (London) to 93.1% (North Yorkshire and Humber) (table 2).

Coverage data by CCG are presented in an [appendix](#) associated with this report.

Figure 1. Monthly Meningococcal B vaccine coverage evaluated at six months of age for one dose and two doses, and the percentage of GP practices reporting: England, November 2015 to April 2016*



*Data for November 2015 represent the first catch-up cohort (born between 03/05/2015 - 01/06/2015), offered one dose of vaccine. Data for December 2015 represent the second catch-up cohort (born between 02/06/2015 - 02/07/2015), offered two doses of vaccine. Due to data quality issues, these data are based on partial GP practice reporting; see 'participation and data quality' in [January 2016 HPR](#). Data presented from January 2016 are for the routine cohort of infants (born on or after 03/07/2015).

Table 1. Monthly Meningococcal B vaccine coverage for one and two doses (%) assessed at six months of age by Area Team: England, February to April 2016

Area Team	Feb-16		Mar-16		Apr-16	
	% coverage one dose	% coverage two doses	% coverage one dose	% coverage two doses	% coverage one dose	% coverage two doses
Cheshire, Warrington and Wirral (Q44)	97.2	89.2	96.8	91.2	96.7	90.7
Durham, Darlington and Tees (Q45)	98.4	89.9	98.5	90.8	98.3	90.4
Greater Manchester (Q46)	92.1	80.6	92.4	82.7	92.3	83.0
Lancashire (Q47)	96.1	88.1	96.0	88.1	95.8	87.7
Merseyside (Q48)	91.9	81.0	93.5	83.3	96.4	85.9
Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear (Q49)	96.2	90.9	96.7	90.7	96.4	90.6
N Yorkshire and Humber (Q50)	97.4	89.4	97.7	90.4	98.4	93.1
S Yorkshire and Bassetlaw (Q51)	97.5	90.3	97.2	90.7	97.6	91.2
W Yorkshire (Q52)	96.7	87.2	96.6	87.4	96.7	88.5
Arden, Herefordshire and Worcestershire (Q53)	93.7	87.5	94.5	88.6	95.8	90.0
Birmingham and Black Country (Q54)	94.3	82.0	94.5	84.0	95.9	85.1
Derbyshire and Notts. (Q55)	97.6	90.8	97.8	90.6	97.9	92.3
East Anglia (Q56)	97.2	90.5	97.1	89.8	97.2	90.3
Essex (Q57)	97.0	88.9	96.9	89.4	96.9	91.2
Hertfordshire and the S Midlands (Q58)	96.5	89.2	97.1	89.7	97.1	91.1
Leicestershire and Lincolnshire (Q59)	97.4	89.9	97.0	89.6	97.4	91.0
Shropshire and Staffordshire (Q60)	96.5	90.4	95.8	90.9	95.7	90.9
Bath, Glos., Swindon and Wilts (Q64)	96.7	89.0	96.5	87.7	97.3	91.4
Bristol, N Som. and S. Glos. (Q65)	96.2	88.0	96.8	86.5	96.4	87.6
Devon, Cornwall and Scilly Isles (Q66)	92.6	83.4	92.7	83.8	91.8	84.1
Kent and Medway (Q67)	95.9	83.5	95.9	87.3	95.7	88.3
Surrey and Sussex (Q68)	93.3	86.7	95.9	87.9	95.9	90.0
Thames Valley (Q69)	94.9	88.9	93.1	86.9	94.3	88.8
Wessex (Q70)	94.9	89.3	96.0	90.5	95.7	90.8
London (Q71)	91.3	80.4	92.4	81.6	92.9	82.7
ENGLAND	94.8	86.1	95.2	86.9	95.5	87.9
Monthly reported denominator	50361		56096		53033	

Discussion

This second assessment of preliminary vaccine coverage at six months of age for the new routine childhood MenB programme indicate that the vaccine has continued to be well accepted and implemented, with high and increasing coverage achieved between February and April 2016. 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 for both doses of vaccine 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 (CHISs) [2]. The first quarterly COVER evaluation to include MenB coverage is expected to 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.

References

1. Public Health England. *MenB vaccine coverage estimates, report: January 2016*. HPR 10(8) 2016; Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/meningococcal-b-immunisation-programme-vaccine-coverage-estimates>.
2. Public Health England. *Documents relating to the new meningococcal B (MenB) vaccination (Bexsero®) programme starting from 1 September 2015*. 2015 26 February 2016; Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/meningococcal-b-menb-vaccination-programme>.