



Infection report

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

Preliminary vaccine coverage estimates for those eligible for infant MenB immunisation are 95.8% for one dose and 87.8% for two doses by 26 weeks of age, and 94.3% for one dose and 91.5% for two doses by 52 weeks of age (evaluated at the end of August 2016).

Introduction

This report presents MenB vaccine coverage data for one and two doses of vaccine by 26 weeks and 52 weeks of age, evaluated at the end of August 2016, updating previous data reported for the period February 2016 to April 2016 [1].

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, Public Health England (PHE) 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 26 weeks and 52 weeks (table 1) 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.
- *Denominator:* the number of infants in a GP practice who, in the survey month, reach 52 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 52 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 eligible for MenB vaccination following introduction of the programme in September 2015, evaluated at 52 weeks of age

Cohort	Birth dates	Doses offered	Coverage survey month
Catch-up cohort 1	02/05/2015 – 01/06/2015	One	May 2016
Catch-up cohort 2	02/06/2015 – 01/07/2015	Two	June 2016
(First) Routine cohort	02/07/2015 – 01/08/2015	Two	July 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 Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), Area Teams (ATs) and NHS England Local Teams (LTs).

Participation and data quality

MenB vaccine coverage data from one of four GP IT suppliers representing 1.2% of GP practices in the survey is consistently lower than other data suppliers. These data have been omitted from this coverage report and we are currently working with ImmForm to resolve this data issue. The GP IT supplier not submitting data for this collection supplies a high proportion (34%) of GP practices in Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly, compared with other ATs.

In July 2016, a data upload issue for one GP IT supplier resulted in 336 fewer practices submitting data. These GPs make up less than 5% of the survey and are distributed nationally.

In August 2016, a data upload issue for one GP IT supplier representing a third of patients in the survey resulted in late data extraction. August data for this GP IT supplier uses the number of infants reaching 26 weeks and 52 weeks in the four weeks preceding 13 September 2016.

This report presents MenB coverage data for infants evaluated at 26 and 52 weeks. It is important to note that comparisons made between these two data extractions will not be based on the same cohort because:

- GPs participating in the data collections vary between months
- Date of birth range for the 26 and 52 week cohorts differ
- Patients will change their GP registration as they move within England and outside the country
- New patients will enter England and register with a GP

Results

In total MenB vaccine coverage data was available for 7004/7612 (92.0%) GP practices in August 2016. The proportion of GP practices represented ranged by AT from 64.5% (Devon, Cornwall and Scilly Isles) [see 'Participation and data quality' above] to 97.5% (East Anglia).

MenB coverage at 26 weeks of age

Between May and August 2016 national coverage of dose one at 26 weeks ranged from 95.6% (May 2016) to 96.2% (July 2016) (figure 1). In August 2016, national coverage of dose one was 95.8%, this ranged by AT from 93.1% (London) to 98.7% (Durham, Darlington and Tees) (table 2). National coverage of dose two between May and August 2016 ranged from 87.8% (August 2016) to 89.1% (July 2016) (figure 1). In August 2016, national coverage of dose two was 87.8%, this ranged by AT from 82.8% (London) to 91.8% (Bath, Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire) (table 2).

MenB coverage at 52 weeks of age – catch-up cohorts

Coverage for the first **catch-up cohort** (born May 2015), eligible for one dose of MenB vaccine before their first birthday, was 79.4% when evaluated at 52 weeks of age in May 2016 (figure 2).

Coverage for the second **catch-up cohort** (born June 2015), was 89.6% for one dose and 82.3% for two doses when evaluated at 52 weeks of age in June 2016 (figure 2).

MenB coverage at 52 weeks of age – routine cohort

Coverage for the **routine cohort** (born July 2015 onwards) when evaluated at 52 weeks in August 2016 was 94.3% for one dose (up from 93.8% in July) and 91.5% for two doses (up from 90.6% in July). In August 2016, national coverage for dose one ranged by AT from 91.0% (London) to 97.8% (Durham, Darlington and Tees) (table 2). National coverage for dose two in August 2016 ranged by AT from 86.4% (London) to 95.1% (Durham, Darlington and Tees).

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

Discussion

This third assessment of preliminary vaccine coverage at 26 weeks of age for the new routine childhood MenB programme indicates that the vaccine has continued to be well accepted and implemented, with high coverage achieved between May and August 2016. This report also presents estimates of MenB coverage at 52 weeks of age for the two catch-up cohorts and for the first two months of the routine cohort, also showing high coverage.

The automated MenB GP data collection is a temporary surveillance programme set up to provide rapid assurance that the vaccine has been well accepted following implementation. It will be replaced in due course by data from the routine quarterly COVER (Cover Of Vaccination Evaluated Rapidly) programme. Two dose MenB vaccine coverage for children at 12 months of age and booster MenB coverage at 24 months of age will be evaluated 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.

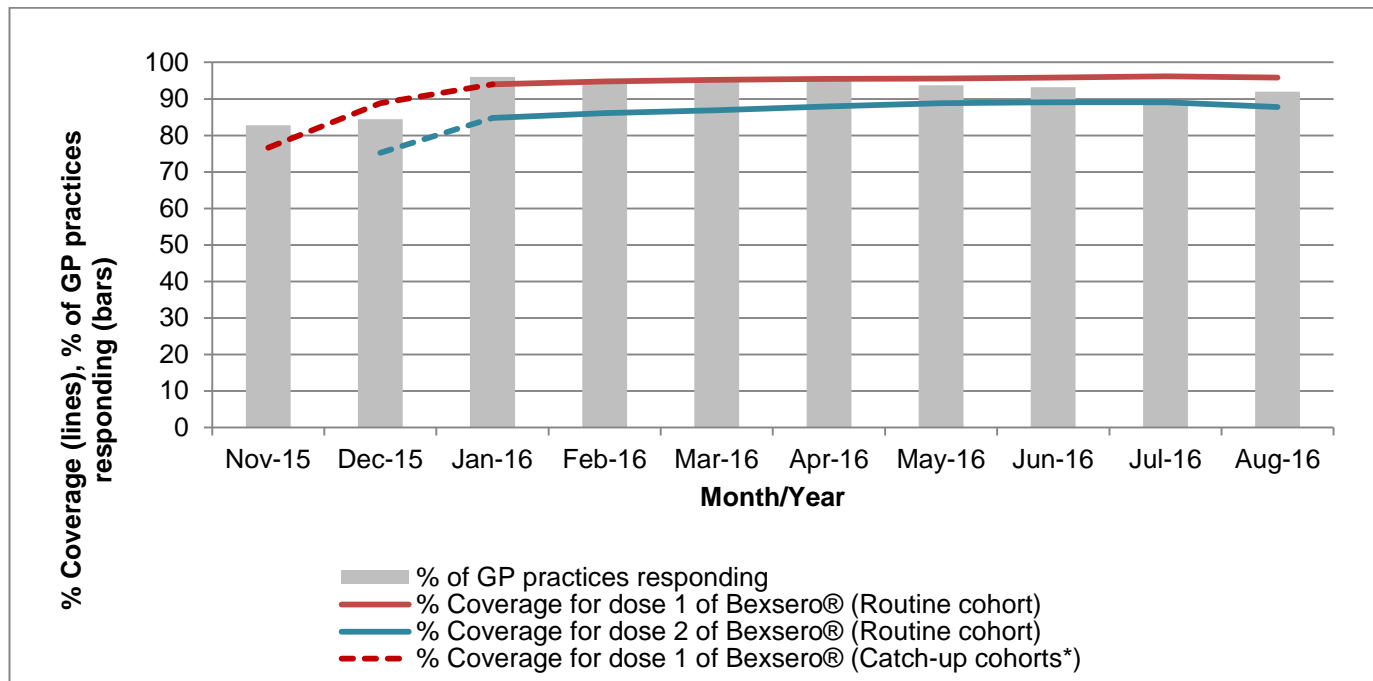
The introduction of MenB immunisation has been supported by an extensive media and communications campaign in partnership with health partners and meningitis charities, that has attracted attention in national, local and parenting media and social media. New patient information leaflets and posters have 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.

PHE are currently evaluating the impact of MenB introduction in infants with the results to be published soon.

References

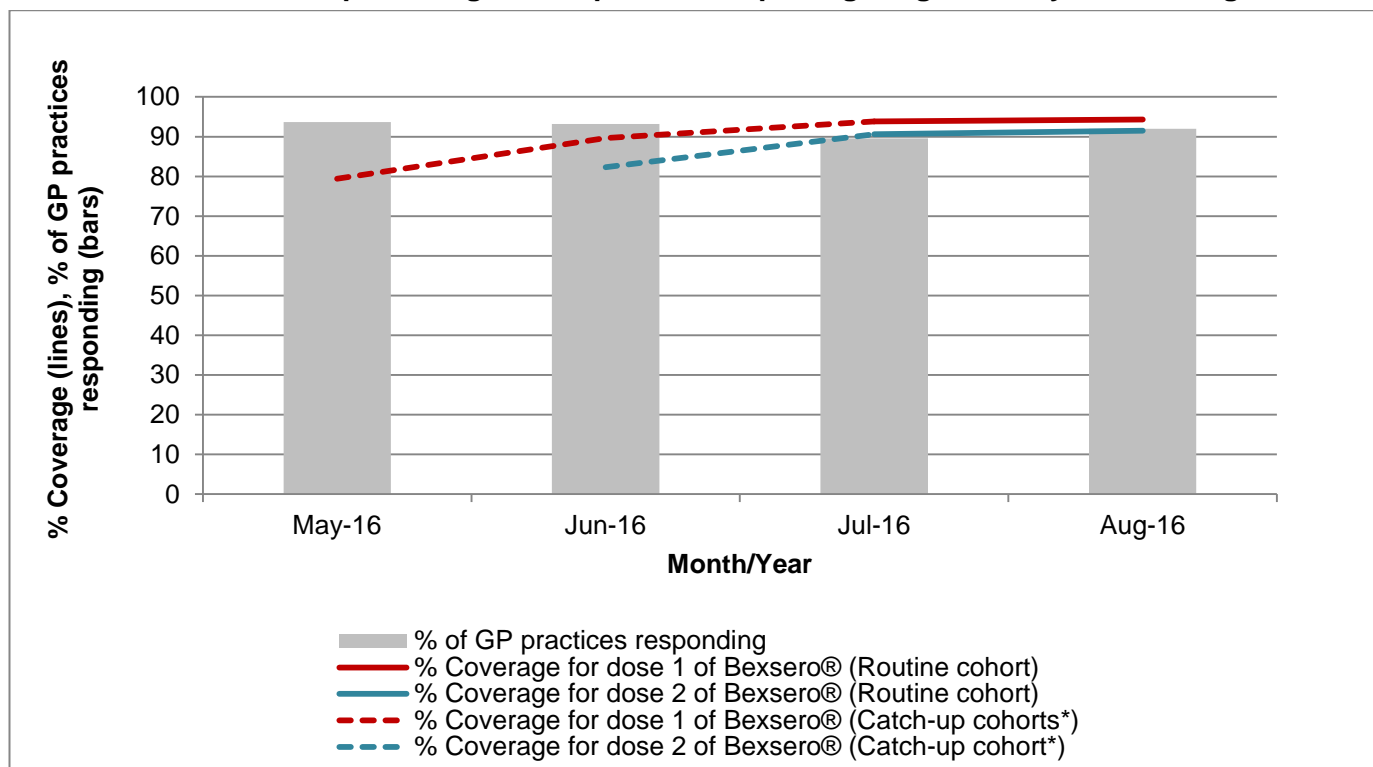
1. Public Health England. *MenB vaccine coverage estimates, report: to end of April 2016*. 2016; Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/meningococcal-b-immunisation-programme-vaccine-coverage-estimates>.
2. Public Health England. *Documents relating to the new meningococcal B (MenB) 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>.

Figure 1. Monthly Meningococcal B vaccine coverage evaluated at 26 weeks of age for one dose and two doses, and the percentage of GP practices reporting: England, November 2015 to August 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 the report on end-January data ([HPR 10\(8\), 26/2/2016](#)). Data presented from January 2016 are for the routine cohort of infants (born on or after 03/07/2015).

Figure 2. Monthly Meningococcal B vaccine coverage evaluated at 52 weeks of age for one dose and two doses, and the percentage of GP practices reporting: England, May 2016 to August 2016*



* See Table 1 for the cohort definitions

Table 2. Meningococcal B vaccine coverage for one and two doses (%) assessed at 26 and 52 weeks of age by Area Team, and the percentage of GP practices reporting: England, August 2016

Area Team	% GP practices responding	26 week coverage (born 01/02/2016-02/03/2016)		52 week coverage (born 02/08/2015-01/09/2015)	
		% coverage one dose	% coverage two doses	% coverage one dose	% coverage two doses
Cheshire, Warrington and Wirral (Q44)	94.5	96.8	90.2	97.0	94.7
Durham, Darlington and Tees (Q45)	94.7	98.7	90.3	97.8	95.1
Greater Manchester (Q46)	92.5	95.6	85.5	91.9	90.7
Lancashire (Q47)	95.9	97.2	89.9	95.1	91.8
Merseyside (Q48)	87.4	97.3	88.3	92.9	90.2
Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear (Q49)	95.2	97.4	91.6	95.0	93.6
N Yorkshire and Humber (Q50)	96.4	97.8	91.2	97.2	94.1
S Yorkshire and Bassetlaw (Q51)	95.2	97.5	89.9	96.3	93.6
W Yorkshire (Q52)	96.6	97.3	86.0	96.9	93.4
Arden, Herefordshire and Worcestershire (Q53)	91.3	96.5	90.2	93.2	93.0
Birmingham and Black Country (Q54)	89.1	96.0	86.4	94.1	89.9
Derbyshire and Notts. (Q55)	97.4	97.5	90.3	97.1	93.7
East Anglia (Q56)	97.5	96.9	89.9	96.3	93.7
Essex (Q57)	93.3	96.7	89.2	96.5	94.0
Hertfordshire and the S Midlands (Q58)	94.5	97.5	88.2	96.6	94.4
Leicestershire and Lincolnshire (Q59)	95.6	96.0	88.0	96.3	93.9
Shropshire and Staffordshire (Q60)	86.0	93.8	90.1	94.0	91.3
Bath, Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire (Q64)	97.4	97.2	91.8	96.0	93.8
Bristol, N Somerset, Somerset and S Gloucestershire (Q65)	92.3	96.0	89.5	94.9	92.8
Devon, Cornwall and Scilly Isles (Q66)	64.5	95.0	88.4	92.4	87.9
Kent and Medway (Q67)	86.0	95.5	90.0	95.5	93.1
Surrey and Sussex (Q68)	92.2	95.1	88.4	93.7	91.9
Thames Valley (Q69)	91.7	94.4	89.0	93.2	91.1
Wessex (Q70)	92.2	96.4	90.9	93.8	92.6
London (Q71)	91.5	93.1	82.8	91.0	86.4
ENGLAND	92.0	95.8	87.8	94.3	91.5
Monthly reported denominator	7,612	51,174		53,601	