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Preliminary vaccine coverage estimates for the meningococcal B (MenB) immunisation programme for England, update from January to March 2018

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Preliminary vaccine coverage estimates for the MenB immunisation programme for England: update from January to March 2018

Introduction

This report presents Meningococcal B (MenB) vaccine coverage data for one and two doses of vaccine by six months and 12 months and three doses by 18 months of age, evaluated at the end of March 2018. It updates previous data reported for the period to end of December 2017 [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) [2]. The vaccine is offered alongside other routine immunisations at eight and sixteen weeks of age, with a booster dose at one year of age. A limited one-off catch-up programme was also delivered targeting infants born in May and June 2015.

This automated collection has allowed PHE to collect monthly data with minimal or no burden to the NHS and provide quick and timely uptake figures. This data collection runs in parallel with the routine COVER data collection, providing early estimates of coverage at six months of age and NHS England with GP level data for performance management.

Key points

- Preliminary vaccine coverage estimates for the infant Meningococcal B immunisation, between January and March 2018, were 95.8% for one dose and 87.8% for two doses by six months of age
- Children who were 12 months between January and March 2018 achieved 95.5% coverage for one dose and 92.5% for two doses
- Children who reached 18 months of age between January and March 2018 achieved 95.3% coverage for one dose, 92.9% for two doses and 86.7% for the booster dose

- Comparison with quarterly MenB vaccine coverage data collected through the routine COVER programme shows that estimates are closely aligned and therefore this is the last ImmForm provisional MenB coverage data report to be published. However, MenB coverage estimates will still be available on ImmForm for local performance management by NHS England teams.

Methods

In order to rapidly assess vaccine coverage of this 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 six months (26 weeks), 12 months (52 weeks), and 18 months (78 weeks) of age in the survey month, using the following definitions:

Coverage at six months:

- *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.

Coverage at 12 months:

- *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.

Coverage at 18 months:

- *Denominator*: the number of infants in a GP practice who, in the survey month, reach 78 weeks of age;
- *Numerators*: the number of infants in the denominator who received (a) 1st dose (b) 2nd dose (c) booster dose of Bexsero® (MenB vaccine) from eight weeks of age up to 78 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).

Participation and data quality

MenB vaccine coverage data from one of four data suppliers representing approximately 1% of GP practices (mainly located in South West England) in the survey is consistently lower than other data suppliers, due to IT issues. These data have been omitted from this coverage report and PHE is working with ImmForm to resolve this data issue. GP practice participation between January and March 2018 ranged from 96.1% (January) to 97.1% (February).

This report presents MenB coverage data for infants evaluated at six, 12 and 18 months. It is important to note that comparisons made between these data extractions will not be based on the same cohort as:

- GPs participating in the data collections vary between months
- Date of birth range for the 26, 52 and 78 week cohorts differ
- Patients will change their GP registration as they move within England and outside the country

Data are presented by Local Team for December 2017 in this report and by Area Team and Clinical Commissioning Group for January and March 2018 in [an appendix associated with this report](#).

Results

MenB coverage at six months (26 weeks) of age

National coverage at six months was 95.8% for dose one and 87.8% for dose two between January and March 2018 (figure 1).

MenB coverage at 12 months (52 weeks) of age

Coverage at 12 months was 95.5% for dose one and 92.5% for dose two between January and March 2018 (figure 2).

MenB coverage at 18 months (78 weeks) of age

Coverage at 18 months was 95.3% for dose one, 92.9% for dose two, and 86.7% for the booster dose between January and March 2018 (figure 3).

MenB coverage across NHS England Local Teams

Dose two coverage for children becoming six months of age in March 2018 ranged from 83.1% (London) to 92.3% (Cumbria and North East) (Table 1). Dose two coverage for children becoming 12 months of age in March 2018 ranged from 87.7% (London) to 95.6% (Cumbria and North East). Coverage of the booster dose for children becoming 18 months of age in March 2018 ranged from 78.4% (London) to 92.4% (Cumbria and North East).

Discussion

This is the seventh early assessment of vaccine coverage at six months of age, just two months after the second dose is scheduled, for the new routine childhood MenB programme and indicates that the vaccine has continued to be well accepted and implemented. High completed primary course coverage similar to that previously reported [1] was achieved between January to March 2018, remaining around 88% by six months of age. By 12 months of age around 93% of infants have completed a two-dose course indicating around 5% receive the second dose after six months of age.

This report also presents the fourth estimates of MenB booster coverage at 18 months of age for the routine cohorts, showing a similarly high proportion of children, around 87% of the routine cohorts, are continuing to receive their booster dose within five to six months of the vaccine being scheduled.

In parallel to the GP based coverage estimates published in this report, PHE estimates MenB coverage data from the routine quarterly COVER (Cover of vaccination evaluated rapidly) reporting scheme which evaluates 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). The October to December 2017 quarterly report was the sixth evaluation of two doses of MenB vaccine at first birthday (children born October to December 2016) and reported 93.0% coverage in England [3], similar to the ImmForm estimate for the same period (92.6% for children reaching 52 weeks of age between October to December 2017). This COVER report also included the first estimates of MenB booster at second birthday (children born October to December 2015) showing 87.4% coverage in England, the same as the ImmForm estimate for children born in the same period (87.4% for children reaching 78 weeks of age between April to June 2017) suggesting few children receive their MenB booster after 18 months of age.

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 [4]. 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.

Given the alignment between COVER and ImmForm reported MenB vaccine coverage for dose two and booster doses, there will be no further routine ImmForm MenB vaccination coverage reports to avoid duplication. MenB vaccination coverage will however continue to be available on ImmForm for local performance management.

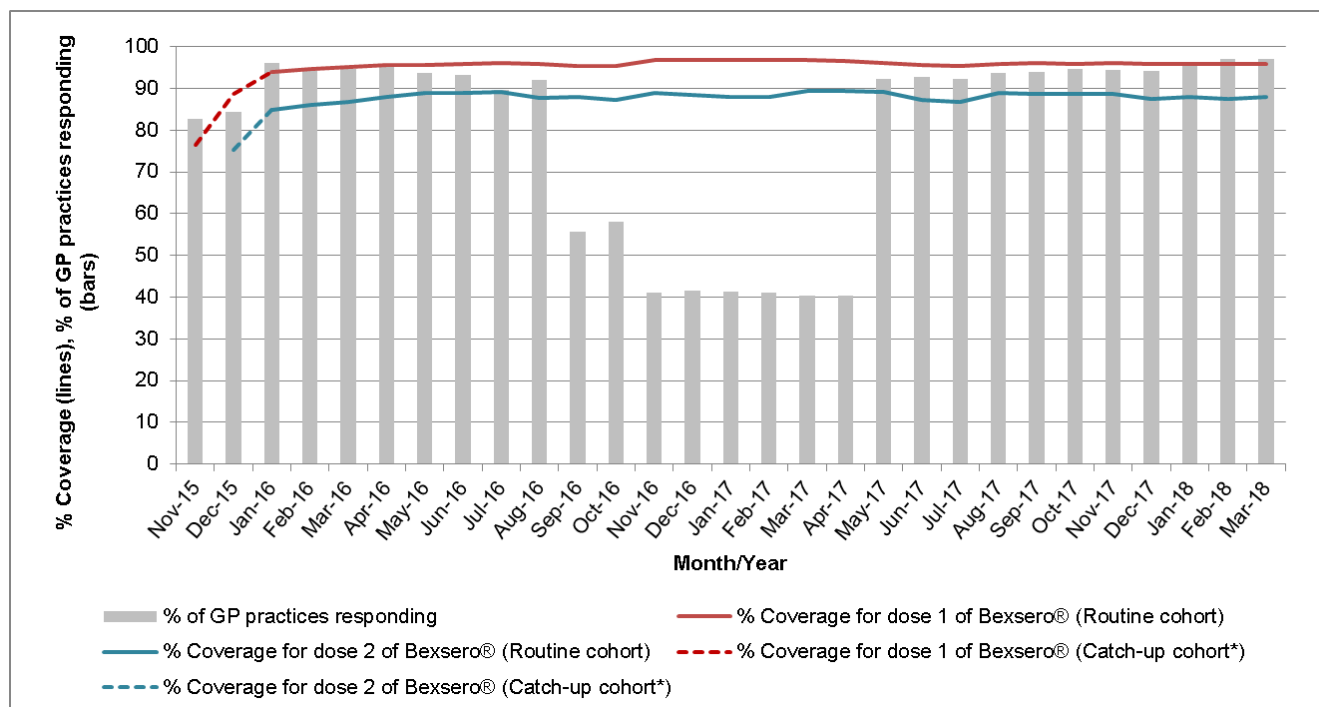
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<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/cover-of-vaccination-evaluated-rapidly-cover-programme-2017-to-2018-quarterly-data>
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Table 1. Meningococcal B vaccine coverage (%) for one and two doses assessed at six and 12 months of age, and one, two and three (booster) doses assessed at 18 months of age by NHS England Local Team, including the percentage of GP practices reporting: England, March 2018.

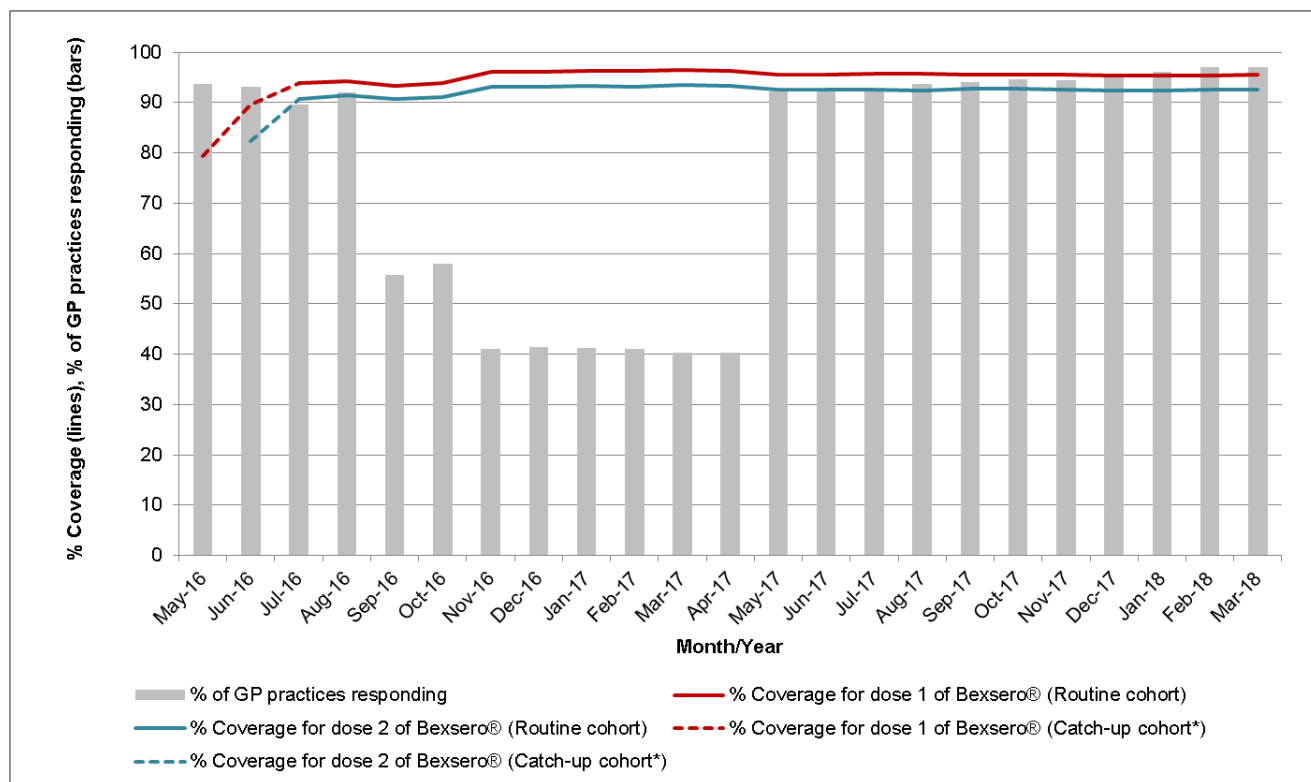
		6 months (born September 2017)		12 months (born March 2017)		18 months (born September 2016)		
		GP practi ces repor ting (%)	Dose one cover age (%)	Dose two cover age (%)	Dose one cover age (%)	Dose two cover age (%)	Dose one cover age (%)	Dose two cover age (%)
NHS ENGLAND LONDON	97.2	93.0	83.1	92.9	87.7	93.0	88.8	78.4
NHS ENGLAND MIDLANDS AND EAST (CENTRAL MIDLANDS)	99.1	96.4	90.1	96.3	93.9	96.0	94.1	89.2
NHS ENGLAND MIDLANDS AND EAST (EAST)	99.0	96.7	89.3	96.9	94.6	96.4	94.8	90.3
NHS ENGLAND MIDLANDS AND EAST (NORTH MIDLANDS)	97.9	97.2	89.9	96.4	93.4	96.1	93.9	90.0
NHS ENGLAND MIDLANDS AND EAST (WEST MIDLANDS)	97.6	95.8	87.6	94.9	91.6	94.6	92.1	86.6
NHS ENGLAND NORTH (CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE)	98.7	97.0	87.3	97.0	93.9	96.2	94.0	87.3
NHS ENGLAND NORTH (CUMBRIA AND NORTH EAST)	97.4	97.5	92.3	97.5	95.6	96.8	95.8	92.4
NHS ENGLAND NORTH (LANCASHIRE)	96.1	95.5	85.8	95.3	91.8	94.3	92.4	86.6
NHS ENGLAND NORTH (GREATER MANCHESTER)	100.0	96.3	89.6	96.9	93.8	95.6	93.8	88.5
NHS ENGLAND NORTH (YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER)	99.2	97.3	88.9	96.6	93.4	96.6	94.6	90.9
NHS ENGLAND SOUTH (SOUTH CENTRAL)	98.5	95.4	89.9	96.8	94.4	95.5	94.0	87.4
NHS ENGLAND SOUTH (SOUTH EAST)	94.1	96.0	88.9	95.9	93.6	95.4	93.3	86.4
NHS ENGLAND SOUTH (SOUTH WEST)	83.0	96.1	89.4	96.2	93.3	95.8	93.9	89.0
NHS ENGLAND SOUTH (WESSEX)	98.2	96.7	91.5	95.9	94.2	95.6	94.4	91.3
England	97.0	95.8	88.0	95.6	92.5	95.2	93.0	86.9
Denominators	7,158	55,921		52,518		58,276		

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 March 2018*



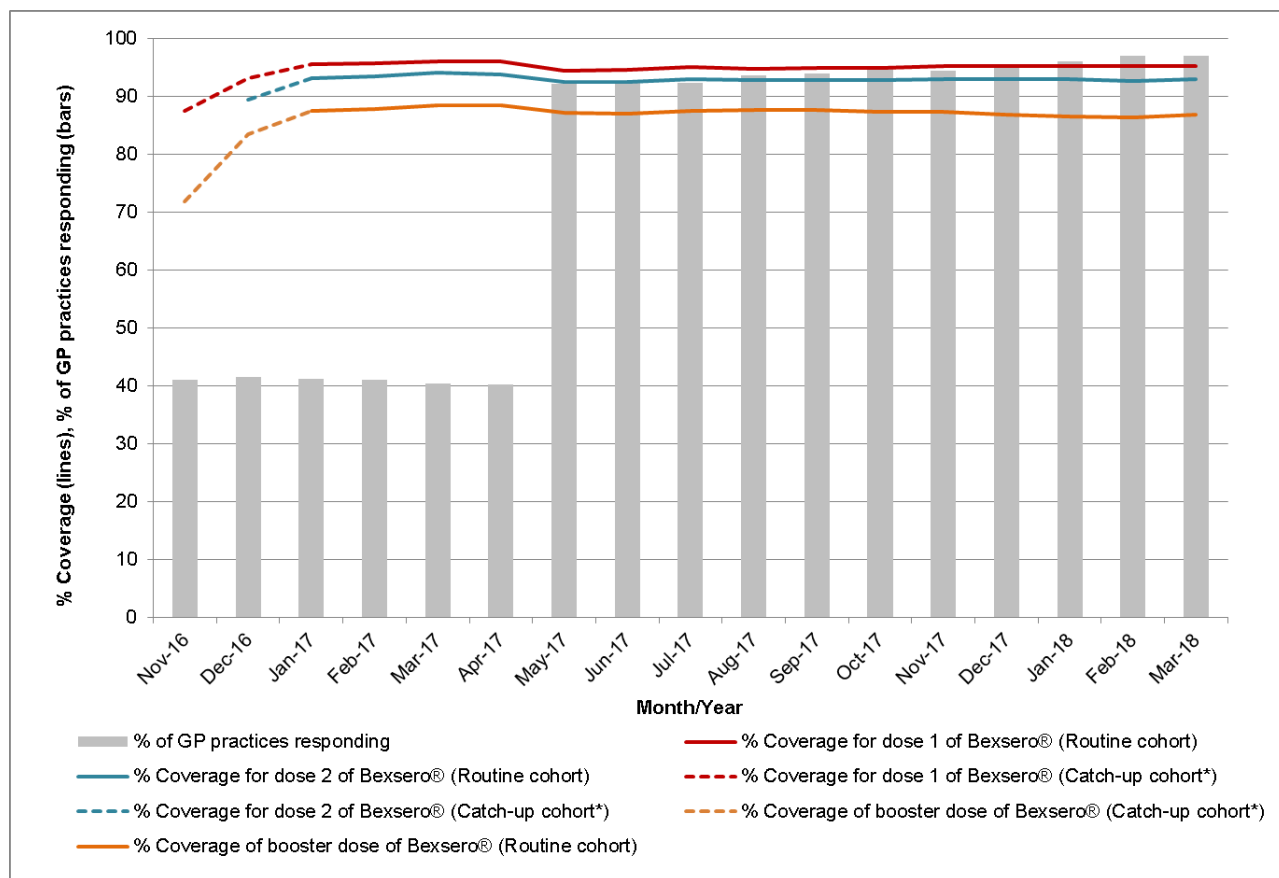
*Data for November 2015 represent the first catch-up cohort (born between 03/05/2015 - 01/06/2015), offered one dose of vaccine. Data for December 2015 represent the second catch-up cohort (born between 02/06/2015 - 02/07/2015), offered two doses of vaccine. Data presented from January 2016 are for the routine cohort of infants (born on or after 03/07/2015). Data quality issues are described in previous reports.

Figure 2. Monthly Meningococcal B vaccine coverage evaluated at 12 months of age for one dose and two doses, and the percentage of GP practices reporting: England, May 2016 to March 2018*



*Data for May 2016 represent the first catch-up cohort (born between 03/05/2015 - 01/06/2015), offered one dose of vaccine. Data for June 2016 represent the second catch-up cohort (born between 02/06/2015 - 02/07/2015), offered two doses of vaccine. Data presented from July 2016 are for the routine cohort of infants (born on or after 03/07/2015). Data quality issues are described in previous reports.

Figure 3. Monthly Meningococcal B vaccine coverage evaluated at 18 months of age for one dose, two doses, and booster dose, and the percentage of GP practices reporting: England, November 2016 to March 2018*



*Data for November 2016 represent the first catch-up cohort (born between 03/05/2015 - 01/06/2015), offered one dose of vaccine with their infant immunisations and a booster at 12-13 months. Data for December 2016 represent the second catch-up cohort (born between 02/06/2015 - 02/07/2015), offered two doses of vaccine and a booster at 12-13 months. Data presented from January 2017 are for the routine cohort of infants (born on or after 03/07/2015). Data quality issues are described above and in previous reports.

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