

## UK licensed BCG vaccine is back!

### **Important update on supply of UK-licensed BCG vaccine manufactured by AJ Vaccines (formerly the Statens Serum Institut (SSI)) for the national BCG programme**

AJ Vaccines has resumed supply of the sole UK-licensed BCG vaccine to Public Health England.

### **BCG Vaccine Supply**

BCG vaccine is centrally supplied by PHE to the NHS in line with national policy to selectively offer vaccination to those at increased risk of exposure to tuberculosis infection.

Since 2015, supply of the only UK-licensed BCG vaccine into the UK from the contracted supplier, SSI, was interrupted due to manufacturing issues. In turn, this led to ordering restrictions and advice being issued on priority groups for BCG vaccine.

From June 2016, an alternative BCG vaccine from InterVax Ltd was supplied to enable the continuation of the programme.

Alongside this PHE issued guidance and training materials to healthcare professionals on the administration of the vaccine, and information for parents and carers.

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## PHE opened ordering for the licensed BCG vaccine Thursday 2 August 2018

**All organisations holding centrally supplied BCG vaccine are asked to use their current stocks of InterVax BCG vaccine before ordering AJ Vaccines BCG Vaccine to minimise vaccine wastage. This is particularly important as supplies for this vaccine remain globally constrained.**

### Ensure all eligible groups can access BCG vaccine

In line with previous communications<sup>1</sup>, NHS England commissioners, Screening and Immunisation Teams and Clinical Commissioning Groups are asked to work together to ensure that eligible children aged 1 to 5 years who missed out on the vaccine during the period of constrained supply are caught up as soon as is practicable.



[1] Vaccine Update Issue 265, July 2017

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/625783/VU\\_bcg\\_july2017.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/625783/VU_bcg_july2017.pdf)

# Vaccine supply – BCG vaccine ordering

## Ordering for BCG vaccine (AJ Vaccines) has now opened

The Intervax BCG vaccine is no longer available, ordering has now switched to AJ Vaccines (formerly SSI) for the national BCG programme.

Initially a maximum order quantity of 2 packs per order per week (each pack contains up to 200 infant doses) will be in place. This order restriction will be kept under review.



At times the shelf life of this product may be relatively short, therefore it is advised not to create locally held stockpiles. In the event that further packs are required, please contact [helpdesk@immform.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@immform.org.uk).

This is particularly important as supplies for this vaccine remain globally constrained. BCG vaccine supplied by AJ Vaccines is presented as a powder for reconstitution in a glass vial with synthetic stopper.



Each pack of vaccine ordered contains 10 vials, and will be accompanied by a pack of 10 vials of diluent. In addition, a pad of 100 patient information leaflets will be included in your order. One vial of reconstituted vaccine contains 1 ml, corresponding to 10 doses (of 0.1 ml) for adults and children aged 12 months and over or 20 doses (of 0.05 ml) for infants under 12 months of age.

**PHE anticipates having sufficient BCG vaccine for all eligible groups.**

## Patient Group Direction (PGD)

We are working on a national PGD for the administration of BCG vaccine manufactured by AJ Vaccines. Now that the licensed vaccine is available to order local provider organisations should continue to use Patient Specific Directions (PSD) until the national PGD is published. We will notify you of the PGD publication in future editions of Vaccine Update and through the NIN network.

For more information on PGDs, see [weblink 1](#).

## Information materials for health professionals and the public

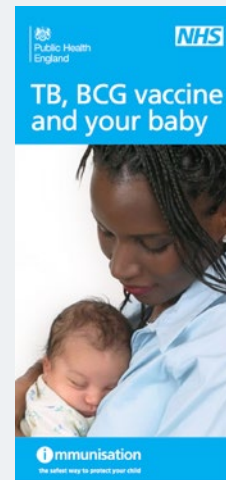
### Greenbook chapter 32 – Tuberculosis

The Tuberculosis chapter of Immunisation against infectious disease (the “Greenbook”) has now been published at [weblink 2](#)



### TB, BCG and your baby leaflet (Product code: 2900193)

This is now available to order from the DH health and social care orderline at [weblink 3](#)



## Training resources

### BCG vaccine AJ

BCG Vaccine AJV (formerly Statens Serum Institut (SSI)): Training slide set for health professionals at [weblink 4](#)



## Web links

- weblink 1 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/patient-group-directions-pgds/patient-group-directions-who-can-use-them>
- weblink 2 [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/731848/\\_Greenbook\\_chapter\\_32\\_Tuberculosis\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/731848/_Greenbook_chapter_32_Tuberculosis_.pdf)
- weblink 3 [https://www.orderline.dh.gov.uk/ecom\\_dh/public/saleproduct.jsf?catalogueCode=2900192](https://www.orderline.dh.gov.uk/ecom_dh/public/saleproduct.jsf?catalogueCode=2900192)
- weblink 4 <https://publichealthengland-immunisati.app.box.com/s/punkfr849jsbu7nfdr525yjepefi1zh5>