

Immunisation news

Whooping cough vaccine uptake among pregnant women continues encouraging upward trend

November and December's vaccine uptake figures at [web link 1](#) show a steady increase on the previous month's levels and are a testament to the women themselves and to the hard work put in by all the healthcare professionals involved.

European Immunization Week, 22 to 27 April 2013



This year sees the launch of the eighth European Immunization Week (EIW) organised by the European Region of the World Health Organization (WHO).

More information will appear in next month's *Vaccine Update* but if you would like to start planning your local activities in support of the week, see [web link 2](#).

World TB Day, 24 March 2013

World TB Day provides an opportunity to raise awareness about the burden of TB and the status of prevention and control efforts. For more information see [web link 3](#) and [web link 4](#).

Late increase in flu cases

Flu is still circulating and flu activity has risen slightly in the recent weeks. GPs are urged to continue considering the benefits of flu vaccination for their patients on a case-by-case basis. The advice on which groups to offer flu vaccination to remains valid, as set out in the Chief Medical Officer letter of 3 May 2012, see [web link 5](#).

Particular attention should be given to pregnant women who were not pregnant when the bulk of flu vaccination took place in the autumn.

Information on the level of flu circulating is collected on a weekly basis, and can be viewed at [web link 6](#).

If you need to order more flu vaccine contact the manufacturers directly. Their details are in the influenza chapter of the Green Book, see [web link 7](#).

Pertussis vaccination of pregnant women – defining the denominator, nailing the numerator

We have been advised that the definitions of the denominator and numerator in the user guide *Prenatal pertussis vaccine uptake surveys 2012/13* for public health data collections have been interpreted differently by different PCTs (see [web link 8](#))

Below is a clarification of the data that PCTs should be reporting through ImmForm for the February (estimated delivery dates (EDDs) falling in January) and March (EDDs falling in February) collections.

- **Denominator** This is the number of pregnant women with an EDD in the survey month.
- **Numerator** This is the number of women identified in the denominator (above) who received a dose of Repevax® at or after week 28 of their pregnancy and before their EDD.

Please note that data searches for doses given should be for read codes for pertussis-containing vaccine given at or after week 28 of pregnancy. This should prevent classifying women as vaccinated, based on the receipt of a pertussis-containing vaccine before week 28 of their pregnancy – for example, as a child.

Further clarification can be requested by email: pertussis@hpa.org.uk.

Additionally, to ensure that the data collections continue to be accurate as we move into the new NHS, revised guidance will be published in March 2013.

Commissioning immunisation services after 1 April 2013

As you may know, from April 2013, responsibility for the routine commissioning of immunisation programmes will transfer to the National Health Service Commissioning Board (NHS CB) under the terms of the Section 7A agreement.

Close working relationships between the Department of Health (DH), NHS CB, Public Health England (PHE) and local authorities will be required to ensure we continue to build on the world-class levels of coverage we have achieved across our immunisation programmes.

The new model for providing immunisation programmes at the local level will see staff with public health expertise employed by PHE but embedded in the CB area teams. These teams will lead on commissioning and provide local leadership.

The NHS CB will be responsible for ensuring that local providers of services meet the national service specifications, and the agreed vaccine uptake levels specified in the key performance and public health outcome indicators.

Recruiting staff to undertake these functions in the CB area teams is well under way and eligible candidates will be interviewed in the near future. Other staff, who were not eligible to apply in the first round but have the necessary skills and experience to carry out the work, should check NHS Jobs where local opportunities will be advertised in the coming weeks.

To ensure that the new teams have the screening and immunisation knowledge they need, existing training courses will be made available following completion of a training needs analysis.

In addition, an extensive list of e-resources for immunisation and screening teams has been collated. This list will be hosted on the UK National Screening Committee website on a temporary basis until the PHE learning and development portal becomes available. Regional implementation team leads will inform staff when these resources are available.

Uptake updates

Vaccine uptake rates for flu, HPV and pertussis for pregnant women for December 2012 have recently been published – see [web link 9](#), [web link 10](#) and [web link 11](#) respectively.

The scores are in!

We were very pleased to receive so many positive comments from last month's survey on what you thought about *Vaccine Update*. Of the responses received, 90.4% were very satisfied, 9.4% fairly satisfied and 0.6% neutral.

Here are a few comments:

'For the busy Practice nurse and Mum, I find vaccine update so useful. I do read the update and keep myself up to date as a practitioner. It is unlikely that I would find time every month to sit down and search for all this useful information. It is great to have this information in one place. Excellent!!'

Always a useful and informative read. Thank you.

'It is a real joy to get updates which are to the point, keep us informed about all important events and changes, provides us with necessary links and does not contain any unnecessary "fillers". In our Practice we value Vaccine Update very highly. Thank you.'

I am about to retire. Thank you for helping me in my job as Practice Nurse. I have urged my colleagues to read it to keep updated.

These are very gratifying, of course, but there's always room for improvement, so we will be looking at the suggestions to see if we can make it even more useful to our readers.

One comment requested easier access to topics in back issues. *Vaccine Update* is also published online at [web link 12](#), where brief introductory summaries of the contents of each issue going back to July 2011 can be found which may be helpful for research purposes.

Thank you to all those who took the time to fill in the survey.



Helpsheet 20

This report, which has been added to the complete list of helpsheets at [web link 13](#), enables better analysis of the uptake of flu vaccine by risk group across each PCT. It compares the uptake by each risk group in a selected GP practice to the average uptake achieved by the top five practices within the PCT. This analysis highlights good performance and helps to target efforts where uptake is relatively low.

PCT users can see this report for each of their practices. GP practice users can see this just for their practice. SHA users can see their PCTs and practices.

Resources

GreenBook updates

Chapters 8, Contraindications and considerations, 21 Measles, 23 Mumps, 26 Polio and 28 Rubella have all been recently updated, see [web link 14](#).

Vaccine supply

MenC vaccines

The two MenC vaccines, Meningitec and Menjugate Kit, are interchangeable and the vaccination course can be completed by using either of the two vaccines.

Typhoid vaccines

Vivotif®

Janssen-Cilag is currently supplying Vivotif®, on a normal delivery basis. Orders can be placed on 0844 800 3907.

Typherix®

As you may be aware, GSK has been experiencing global supply constraints Typherix® and they do not expect to be able to supply any further doses of this vaccine until Q4 2014. This supply constraint is due to the establishment and accreditation of a new manufacturing facility and is not related to either a quality or safety issue with the vaccines.

Typhim Vi®

Sanofi Pasteur MSD has limited stock of their typhoid vaccine, Typhim Vi®. To ensure as much coverage as possible with the current stock, Sanofi Pasteur MSD is restricting the number of doses per customer until further notice.

Hepatitis A and typhoid vaccine

The following information regarding the availability in the UK of Hepatyrix® has been supplied by GSK.

Hepatyrix®

A limited amount of Hepatyrix® – combined hepatitis A (inactivated) and typhoid polysaccharide vaccine (adsorbed) – is currently available for use in the UK, it is anticipated that the current stock will sell out during May 2013. This Hepatyrix® stock fully complies with the marketing authorisation and has a remaining shelf life of at least 31 March 2014. It is anticipated that Hepatyrix® will be available as normal supply during Q2, 2014. This supply constraint is due to the establishment and accreditation of a new manufacturing facility and is not related to either a quality or safety issue with the vaccines.

For further information please phone GSK's customer contact team on 0808 100 9997.

Alternative hep A vaccines are available from GSK, Sanofi Pasteur MSD or Janssen-Cilag Ltd (formerly Crucell).

Rabies vaccines

Sanofi Pasteur MSD has limited supplies of rabies vaccine BP >2.5 IU/mL. To help ensure continued public health protection Sanofi has agreed with the Department of Health to supply an alternative rabies vaccine, which is currently unlicensed in the UK, called Verorab® (Purified Vero Rabies Vaccine (PVRV)) from November 2012. Verorab® is being supplied with the approval of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency until Rabies Vaccine BP supplies return to normal. For further details contact Sanofi's customer services on 0800 0855511.

Rabipur®

A limited supply of Rabipur® rabies vaccine is currently available from Novartis.

Movianto UK deliveries over Easter and May Bank holidays

Due to the Easter and May Bank holidays, there will be **no deliveries or order processing** by Movianto UK on: Friday **29 March**, Monday **1 April** and Monday **6 May**.

Please see the table below for revised order and delivery dates.

Customers whose scheduled delivery day falls on a Bank holiday are reminded to be prepared for the break in deliveries and to order accordingly. Please make sure you have sufficient room in your fridge for any additional vaccine you wish to stock over this holiday period.

Orders can still be placed on ImmForm on all days, but on Bank holidays they will not be processed by Movianto UK for dispatch at their warehouse, hence the revised order cut-off day.

We recommend you have two to four weeks of vaccine stock held in your fridge, so you may wish to bear this in mind when ordering for the holiday period. We also recommend that you have at least two contacts registered on ImmForm, as cover for leave etc. To register please see the ImmForm helpsheet on how to register at [web link 15](#).

Easter and May Bank holidays orders and deliveries

Delivery date	Order cut off date	Order cut off time
Easter holiday		
Monday 25/03/2013	Thursday 21/03/2013	11:55 am
Tuesday 26/03/2013	Friday 22/03/2013	11:55 am
Wednesday 27/03/2013	Monday 25/03/2013	11:55 am
Thursday 28/03/2013	Tuesday 26/03/2013	11:55 am
Friday 29/03/2013	Closed – NO DELIVERIES	
Monday 01/04/2013		
Tuesday 02/04/2013	Wednesday 27/03/2013	11:55 am
Wednesday 03/04/2013	Thursday 28/03/2013	11:55 am
Thursday 04/04/2013	Tuesday 02/04/2013	11:55 am
Friday 05/04/2013	Wednesday 03/04/2013	11:55 am
May Bank holiday		
Monday 29/04/2013	Thursday 25/04/2013	11:55 am
Tuesday 30/04/2013	Friday 26/04/2013	11:55 am
Wednesday 01/05/2013	Monday 29/04/2013	11:55 am
Thursday 02/05/2013	Tuesday 30/04/2013	11:55 am
Friday 03/05/2013	Wednesday 01/05/2013	11:55 am
Monday 06/05/2013	Closed – NO DELIVERIES	
Tuesday 07/05/2013	Thursday 02/05/2013	11:55 am
Wednesday 08/05/2013	Friday 03/05/2013	11:55 am
Thursday 09/05/2013	Tuesday 07/05/2013	11:55 am
Friday 10/05/2013	Wednesday 08/05/2013	11:55 am

An example of how deliveries are affected by the Bank holidays: if your normal delivery day is a Monday, the cut off for placing an order for a delivery for use around the Easter Bank holiday is 11:55 on Thursday 21 March for delivery on Monday 25 March. If you miss this date, the next Monday delivery will be Monday 8 April. The normal delivery and ordering cycle resumes on Tuesday 2 April.

Out of schedule deliveries cannot be made for failure to place orders in good time.

Web links

- Web link 1** <http://immunisation.dh.gov.uk/tag/pertussis-vaccine-uptake-201213/>
- Web link 2** <http://www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-do/health-topics/disease-prevention/vaccines-and-immunization/european-immunization-week/european-immunization-week-2013>
- Web link 3** http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/annual/world_tb_day/en/index.html
- Web link 4** http://www.stoptb.org/events/world_tb_day/
- Web link 5** <http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/05/flu-vaccination-programme-2012-13/>
- Web link 6** <http://www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/SeasonalInfluenza/EpidemiologicalData/05influsWeeklyinfluenzareportsarchive/>
- Web link 7** <http://immunisation.dh.gov.uk/green-book-chapters/chapter-19/>
- Web link 8** https://www.wp.dh.gov.uk/immunisation/files/2012/10/PrenatalPertussisDataGuidance_acc.pdf.pdf
- Web link 9** <http://immunisation.dh.gov.uk/tag/flu-vaccine-uptake/>
- Web link 10** <http://immunisation.dh.gov.uk/tag/hpv-vaccine-uptake-201213/>
- Web link 11** <http://immunisation.dh.gov.uk/tag/pertussis-vaccine-uptake-201213/>
- Web link 12** <http://immunisation.dh.gov.uk/category/updates/>
- Web link 13** <http://immunisation.dh.gov.uk/immform-helpsheets/>
- Web link 14** <http://immunisation.dh.gov.uk/category/the-green-book/>
- Web link 15** <https://vaccinesupply.immform.dh.gov.uk/Registration/Registration.aspx>

Register now – feedback – contact us

To receive a copy of *Vaccine Update* emailed direct to you each month, to provide any comments or suggestions, or if you have a query about any aspect of vaccine supply, please email us at vaccine.supply@dh.gsi.gov.uk

This document has been authorised by the Department of Health: Gateway reference no: 18776

To get *Vaccine Update* emailed direct to you, email vaccine.supply@dh.gsi.gov.uk