



Welcome to the first *Vaccine update* from Public Health England

This is the first issue of *Vaccine update* from Public Health England. We hope you like the new design (feel free to send comments to the *Vaccine update* mailbox at the foot of the page). We will aim to continue supplying updates to immunisation policies and procedures and keep you informed of any issues regarding vaccine availability, ordering, delivery and storage.

We will also bring you news of any developments, both at home and overseas, that may affect your workloads, which we fully realise are not getting any lighter as we introduce new vaccine programmes this year.

As always, we are very grateful for all you do in the field of immunisation, where record levels of uptake are indicative of just how productive you are, and we hope that *Vaccine update* will continue to provide you with the information you need to maintain this excellent progress.

Immunisation news

Major new vaccination programmes officially announced

As presaged in earlier issues of *Vaccine update*, significant changes to the routine childhood immunisation programme have been announced in a joint letter from the Department of Health, NHS England and Public Health England, see [web link 1](#)

The letter, which was released on 30 April, includes details of the first of the changes – the introduction of the rotavirus vaccination for babies aged two and three months, as well as outlines of the other changes; hence the slightly delayed publication of this month's edition.

Rotavirus immunisation for babies starts in July

Rotavirus is a very common and potentially serious infection of the large bowel of young babies. An estimated 130,000 children with rotavirus gastroenteritis will visit their GP and approximately 12,700 children will be hospitalised in England and Wales every year.

The vaccine (Rotarix®) is supplied as an oral suspension in pre-filled oral applicator. One dose should be offered routinely to all babies at the age of two months and another at three months (that is, two doses in all, four weeks apart) when they attend for their first and second routine childhood immunisations. It's very important that the vaccine is not given to babies over six months of age.

Full details of all aspects of programme implementation are contained in the joint letter at [web link 1](#)

Further resources are available at GOV.UK and include:

- a new rotavirus Green Book chapter, [web link 2](#)
- training slides
- questions and answers for healthcare practitioners,
- a flyer and a leaflet, and
- a factsheet, all available at [web link 3](#)

Changes to MenC schedule from June

The second major change to the routine childhood immunisation schedule is based on advice given by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), (as, indeed, are all changes to the immunisation schedule in the UK) to improve the level of protection given by the MenC vaccination. This advice has been accepted by the Secretary of State for Health. The second priming dose of MenC conjugate vaccine currently given at four months will be replaced by a booster dose given in adolescence. The initial change will be to cease giving the four-month dose from 1 June 2013. The new adolescent booster dose will be introduced in the 2013/14 academic year. It is expected that vaccination will take place in schools in the term starting January 2014.

Further details can be found at [web link 7](#)

MMR catch-up campaign launched in England

A national campaign to vaccinate one million susceptible children against measles was launched in England on 25 April. This follows a dramatic increase in the number of older children in particular, getting measles in Wales which is the consequence of a fall in the number of babies having the MMR vaccine in the late 1990s and early 2000s, which itself was a consequence of the vaccine being mistakenly associated with autism. See [web link 8](#) for more information.

One becomes three

Under the new organisational arrangements for the health and care system in England, what were previously described as CMO (Chief Medical Officer) letters will now be published as joint letters by The Department of Health (DH), NHS England and Public Health England (PHE).

Accessing immunisation information on the GOV.UK website

The quickest way to access immunisation information is to go to [web link 4](#) from where you can link to the Green Book, Vaccine update and the ImmForm website and helpsheets. You can also access the publications listed on the Department of Health website and the archived publications listed on the previous DH website together with the ordering information. In addition, you can access the JCVI minutes etc. including a link to the archived minutes going back to 1963.

Horizon scanning

As mentioned in March's edition, JCVI would like to hear from manufacturers about their forthcoming vaccine developments.

Please send your submissions to the mailbox at jcvi-consultation@phe.gov.uk

Resources

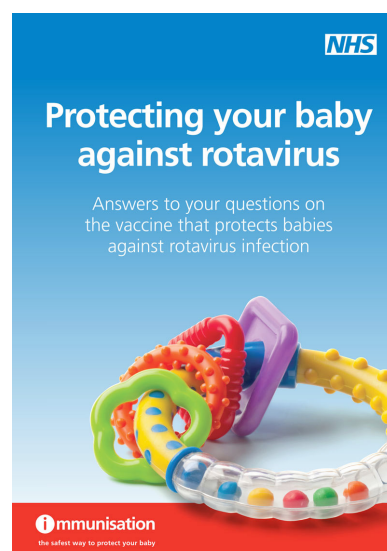
Coming to a screening and immunisation unit near you. Rotavirus flyer and leaflet

These publications have been produced to support the introduction of the rotavirus vaccination programme starting in July. The flyer is designed to provide parents with all the information they need to give consent for their baby to have the vaccination, while the leaflet gives more detailed answers to any questions that might arise. There is also

a Q&A factsheet which goes into the scientific background to the development of the vaccine and vaccination programme, a Q&A for health professionals, and finally there's the Green Book chapter, see [web link 2](#) and [web link 3](#).

Green Book

Readers are reminded that printed copies are no longer available because they are out of date and healthcare professionals may be accessing erroneous information. It is available as regularly-updated pdfs at [web link 5](#)



Vaccine supply

Rotarix

The rotavirus vaccine - Rotarix® - will be available to order from June 2013. It should be ordered online via the ImmForm website (www.immform.dh.gov.uk) and is being distributed by Movianto UK (tel: 01234 248631) as part of the national childhood immunisation programme.

Centrally purchased vaccines for the national immunisation programme for the NHS can only be ordered via ImmForm and are provided free of charge to NHS organisations. Vaccines for private prescriptions, occupational health use or travel, are NOT provided free of charge and should be ordered directly from the manufacturers.

Prevenar 13

Prevenar 13 label now indicates that the vaccine is stable for a period of up to four days at temperatures up to 25°C, after which time, if not used, it should be discarded. This new label allows for temporary deviation from the approved storage temperature of 2 to 8°C, providing healthcare professionals with guidance should they encounter a short-term refrigeration issue. Following such temperature deviations, the vaccine should be used or discarded. See [web link 6](#) for the full SmPC

Infanrix-IPV and Repevax vaccines

Please be aware that Infanrix IPV is now available to order for the pre-school booster. Repevax can only be ordered for the pertussis programme for pregnant women.

MMR catch-up programme, vaccine ordering

When ordering MMR vaccines for the catch-up campaign, please add them to your regular childhood vaccine order where possible. We recommend you have no more than 2 to 4 weeks of stock of vaccines stored on your premises with the appropriate stock management controls.

Cervarix – the final countdown

GPs are reminded to make sure all girls partially vaccinated with Cervarix are recalled for their final dose. The remaining vaccine available through ImmForm expires in October.

Hepatitis A and typhoid vaccines

Hepatyrix®

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

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 June 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 become 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.

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, the number of doses per customer is being restricted until further notice.

Vivotif®

Janssen-Cilag is currently out of stock of Vivotif®. Normal supply is expected to be resumed during the middle of May.

Web links

- Web link 1** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-immunisation-programme-planned-changes-for-2013-to-2014>
- Web link 2** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rotavirus-the-green-book-chapter-27b>
- Web link 3** <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/series/rotavirus-vaccination-programme-for-infants>
- Web link 4** <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/series/immunisation>
- Web link 5** <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/series/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book>
- Web link 6** <http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/22689/SPC/Prevenar+13+suspension+for+injection/>
- Web link 7** <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/series/meningococcal-c-menc-vaccination-programme>
- Web link 8** <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/series/MMR-catch-up-programme-2013>