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**For distribution to:**

Public Health Commissioning Teams (Screening and Immunisation Teams and Heads of Public Health Commissioning)  
PHE Centre Health Protection Teams  
Local Authority Directors of Public Health  
NHS England Regional Directors  
General Practitioners (GPs)  
Nursing providers  
Midwifery providers  
Health visitor providers  
Community practitioner providers

Dear Colleague,

**Meningococcal B immunisation programme: Training and communication resources**

Our [letter](#) dated 22 June announced that the meningococcal B (MenB) vaccine will be added to the routine childhood immunisation programme in England from 1 September 2015.

We noted the importance of providing clear advice to healthcare professionals and parents / guardians about the new programme and in particular the recommended prophylactic use of paracetamol. This is crucial for the successful implementation of the programme, and so here we include further detail on the communication and training resources available.

Commissioners and providers are responsible for ensuring opportunities are taken to direct parents to information on MenB vaccination and paracetamol use post-vaccination. This information should ideally be provided to parents **before** the two month vaccination appointment, for example:

- on registration of baby with the GP practice;
- at health visitor appointments following birth;
- in combination with the invites for the two month immunisation appointment;
- at the six week post-natal check and the six to eight week infant examination.

The advice should then be reinforced by health professionals during the infant's routine immunisation appointment, with written information on paracetamol dosage and timings (see D below) supplied at that time.

**1. Patient information materials available to order**

The following resources have been developed to assist communication with parents / guardians, and can be ordered in hard copy from [DH Orderline](#) by searching 'menb'.

**A. [Poster: Protecting your baby against meningitis and septicaemia](#)**

This poster explains that MenB vaccination will be offered routinely at two, four and twelve months of age from September 2015. It is for display in GP practices, health centres and other places where parents of young children may gather.

**B. [Flyer: Information about the MenB vaccine and paracetamol use](#)**

This brief two-sided A5 flyer informs parents of the increased risk of fever, and the need to have paracetamol available at home in preparation for the first immunisation appointment. It is being provided to mothers when they leave hospital following the birth of their baby through promotional 'new mum' packs distributed in most English hospitals.

**C. Leaflet A: Protecting your baby against meningitis and septicaemia caused by meningococcal B bacteria - A three minute guide**

This patient information leaflet, in DL letter size, seeks to address some of the common questions parents/guardians may have on MenB disease, the vaccine and the use of paracetamol due to increased risk of fever. Wherever possible, it is recommended that it is included with immunisation appointment letters or through other routes to reach parents in advance of the two month appointment.

**D. Leaflet B: Protecting your baby against meningitis and septicaemia caused by meningococcal B bacteria**

Parents/ guardians can be directed to this more comprehensive leaflet, in A5 size, if they request further information in addition to the three minute guide above.

**2. Other patient information**

**E. Paracetamol sachet patient information leaflet**

The advice on the use of paracetamol following MenB vaccination differs to previous advice on the use of paracetamol for post-vaccination fever which may still appear on infant paracetamol product packaging. In order to avoid confusion, a patient information leaflet has been produced detailing advice on paracetamol dosage and timings and addressing frequently asked questions. This leaflet will be supplied centrally from PHE and sufficient quantities for the first immunisation appointment will be distributed together with the vaccine and paracetamol sachets to all providers. Every parent/guardian should be given a copy at the two month immunisation appointment.

**F. Red Book updates**

Newly printed copies of the Personal Child Health Record (Red Book) now include the addition of the MenB immunisation to the routine childhood immunisation schedule and the updated advice on paracetamol use post-vaccination. However it is anticipated that parents of children in the eligible cohort will hold old copies of the Red Book and it could take several months for new parents to receive the updated version. In the meantime, commissioners and providers are encouraged to put plans in place to distribute replacement inserts of the page '*what to expect after vaccination*' which includes the up to date paracetamol advice. Copies can be downloaded from the PHE website [here](#) and will shortly be available to order in hard copy from the DH Orderline.

**G. NHS Choices**

Information on MenB vaccine and the use of paracetamol to reduce the risk of post-vaccination fever has been added to [NHS Choices](#), together with links to the patient information leaflets noted overleaf.

**3. Training for healthcare professionals**

Throughout June 2015, PHE's immunisation team delivered a national conference and four regional 'training the trainer' events aimed at Screening and Immunisation, Health Protection and immunisation training provider staff. Local NHS England and PHE colleagues are requested to signpost providers to or cascade this training locally as appropriate to frontline immunisers in preparation for the 1 September 2015 roll-out.

The following training resources are being made accessible from the [Meningococcal B \(MenB\) vaccination programme page of .Gov.uk](#)

- H. Green Book chapter
- I. Q&A factsheet for healthcare professionals
- J. Standard Training slide set
- K. Extended training slide set with video tutorial that can be used for independent or peer learning
- L. Training film: nurse consultation with parent featuring a discussion about the use of paracetamol
- M. MenB Patient Group Direction (PGD)
- N. Paracetamol Homely Remedy Protocol

Yours faithfully,



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