



The new meningococcal immunisation programmes

MenACWY

We have received a number of reports of new university starters being incorrectly refused the MenACWY vaccination. We would like to take this opportunity to confirm that first time university entrants ('freshers') up to 25 years old are eligible for MenACWY vaccination. These students are a priority for vaccination and should be vaccinated as soon as possible.

Additionally, we've had a number of enquiries about students entering year 13 this in the 2015/16 academic year. To clarify, those entering year 13 from September 2015 will be eligible for vaccination during the current academic year, and this will most likely take place during the summer term. The delivery route for vaccinating this age group has yet to be determined, but will be confirmed before the end of 2015.

We are in the process of updating the Men ACWY information for healthcare professionals document and this will be available shortly. Please check [weblink 1](#) for updates.

MenB

We have recently amended the MenB information for healthcare professionals document to include additional Q&As. This is now available online at [weblink 2](#).

Children born before 1 May

We've had a number of enquiries from parents of children born before 1 May 2015 asking if there are any plans to extend the MenB programme to older children. We can confirm that there are presently no plans to extend the eligibility of MenB vaccination beyond the current infant programme. The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) considered all the relevant scientific evidence and research on the new MenB vaccine and how it could be most effectively used, and recommended that it be offered to babies at 2, 4 and 12 months.

When any new immunisation programme is introduced, there have to be criteria, such as age, to determine eligibility. Parents of children who do not meet those age criteria naturally feel disappointed. Parents whose children don't fall into the age groups offered the vaccine can get their child vaccinated privately.

12 month old infants being given MenB from 1 September

We have received a number of reports of incidents where babies attending for their 12 month routine appointments from 1 September 2015 have been given a dose of MenB.

Infants born before 1 May 2015 are not eligible to receive Bexsero® and should not be offered additional MenB vaccinations. Healthcare professionals should reassure parents that no further action is required and should report the administration error via their local governance system(s) so that appropriate action can be taken, lessons can be learnt and the risk of future errors minimised.

Parents who wish to complete the Men B vaccination course should be advised to seek the vaccine privately from a private healthcare provider. Please refer to the question “Can the vaccine be offered to infants outside of the national programme?” in the MenB information for healthcare professionals document (see [weblink 2](#)).

The dates-of-birth that define eligibility for the MenB routine and catch-up cohorts are set out in the following table:

	Babies born on or after	Priming dose	Priming dose	Booster
Routine cohort	01/07/2015	2 months	4 months	12-13 months
Catch-up cohort	01/05/2015 to 30/06/2015	3 months	4 months	12-13 months
		n/a	4 months	12-13 months

Reminder of provision of paracetamol for the MenB programme

The NHS is not required to provide infant paracetamol alongside MenB vaccination, however, for a limited time, in order to support the introduction of this new programme, infant paracetamol sachets have been made available for practices to order centrally.

The advice to parents should be to buy infant paracetamol for use after the two month and four month routine infant vaccination appointments. Ideally parents should be informed about this ahead of their first appointment. The infant paracetamol sachets are only intended to be offered on occasions when the parent does not have any at home **and** they cannot purchase a supply on their way home from the appointment, for example if a clinic is being run late and shops are likely to be closed.

If infant paracetamol sachets are not available at any time, you should not cancel or defer giving the MenB vaccination. In this situation, the correct course of action would be to administer the vaccine, ensuring the parent receives a copy of the “*Using paracetamol to prevent and treat fever after MenB vaccination*” leaflet at the two and four month appointment visits. The parent should be advised to purchase a bottle of infant paracetamol on their way home if they don't have some at home already, and to give the first dose to their baby as soon as they can. Further information and assurance on giving further doses of infant paracetamol to their baby should be explained to the parent during the appointment.

All parents should be given the leaflet “*Using paracetamol to prevent and treat fever after MenB vaccination*” (see [web link 3](#)) at the two and four month appointment visits, regardless of whether they are given a sachet of infant paracetamol or not. Leaflets are being automatically distributed in the infant paracetamol support packs, however you can also order them in hard copy from DH Orderline in the [usual way](#) (product code: 3083756).

If you have not ordered and received hard copies of this leaflet, please make arrangements for it to be printed locally as required. It can be downloaded as a PDF from the same web link.

Agrippal trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine

A question has arisen about the suitability of the content of Agrippal trivalent flu vaccine for the 2015/16 flu season. The recommended strains for the 2015/16 season are:

- A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus
- A/Switzerland/9715293/2013 (H3N2)-like virus
- B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus

It is recommended that quadrivalent vaccines containing two influenza B viruses contain the above three viruses and a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus.

Agrippal contains the following strains:

- A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09 – like strain
- A/Switzerland/9715293/2013 (H3N2) –like strain
- B/Brisbane/9/2014

The B/Brisbane/9/2014 strain in Agrippal is not of the same lineage as the B/Brisbane/60/2008 like virus recommended as the fourth component of a quadrivalent flu vaccine for 2015/16. Instead the B/Brisbane/9/2014 strain in Agrippal is of the same lineage as the B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus and is therefore compliant with European Medicines Agency recommendations for trivalent flu vaccines for the 2015/16 season.

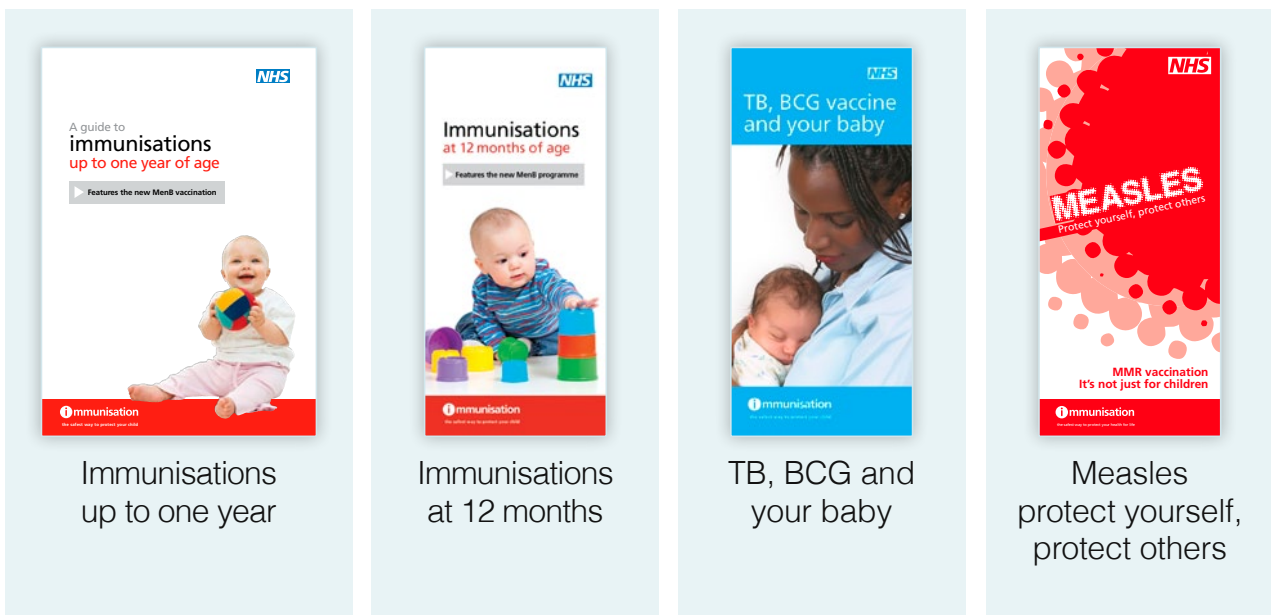
Resources

The **National minimum standards and core curriculum for immunisation training of healthcare support workers** originally published in April 2012 to define the standards that may be considered a minimum for HCSW immunisation training and to provide assistance to those responsible for developing and delivering training has been revised and republished. (see [weblink 4](#)). This revised document includes additional training requirements and considerations for HCSWs involved in the delivery of the children’s intranasal influenza and adult shingles vaccine programmes and new and updated guidance on delegation, competency assessment, Patient Group Directions and Patient Specific Directions.



Other training documents revised and republished by the RCN and PHE recently include an **Immunisation knowledge and skills competence assessment tool** (see [weblink 5](#)) and Supporting the delivery of immunisation education (see [weblink 6](#)). The competence assessment tool has been developed to support the training and assessment of registered and non-registered health care workers who have taken on a role in immunisation. The ‘Supporting the delivery of immunisation education’ document provides a quality framework designed to support the implementation of national standards and guidelines on immunisation training.

Revision of publications

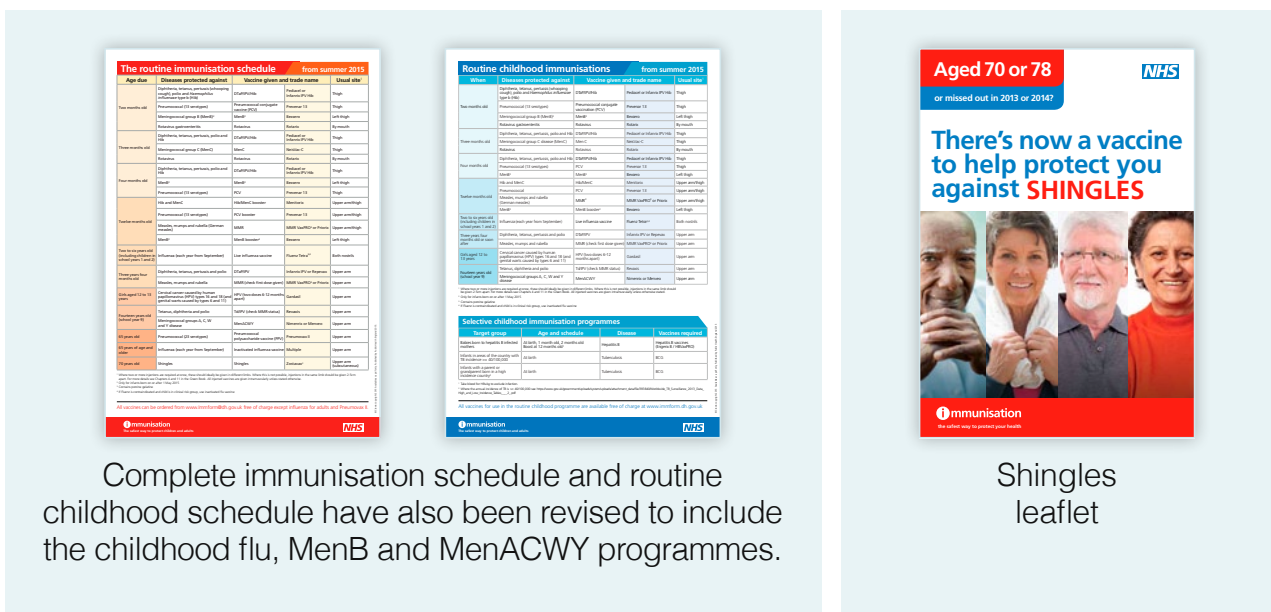


Immunisations up to one year

Immunisations at 12 months

TB, BCG and your baby

Measles protect yourself, protect others



Complete immunisation schedule and routine childhood schedule have also been revised to include the childhood flu, MenB and MenACWY programmes.

Shingles leaflet

Vaccine Supply

MenACWY vaccine

MenACWY vaccine is currently available to order through the ImmForm website for older university entrants (freshers – see article above) and the routine adolescent programme (current school year 9 and 10).

GPs should have ordered all required stock for those who were in school year 13 in academic year 2014/15 and ordering of additional stock for this cohort should only be considered on an exception basis.

Ordering for the current 2015/16 school year 11 is expected to open in January 2016 and this will be communicated through Vaccine Update and the ImmForm website at the time.

Due to the speed with which the MenACWY programme is being implemented, PHE is holding less vaccine buffer stock than would usually be the case for a national programme. This has increased the likelihood of temporary ordering restrictions and periods of unavailability, but we are working to ensure that any periods of supply disruption are minimised and will provide regular updates through Vaccine Update and the ImmForm news items.

Further details on the availability of ACWY vaccine for each phase of the programme is below.

When to order MenACWY vaccine

When ordering this vaccine it's important to only order sufficient for your immediate needs. Over-ordering will lead to shortages and potentially deprive others of a supply.

From when is the vaccine expected to be available?	Which school year of pupils is the vaccine for?	Dates of birth of pupils/students who will receive the vaccine (inclusive)	In which academic year will the vaccine start to be given?
GPs should have ordered all required stock.	2014/15 school year 13s	1/9/1996 to 31/8/1997	2014/15
Available now	Older university entrants (freshers' programme)	1/9/1990 to 31/8/1996	2014/15
Available now	Routine adolescent programme (school year 9 or 10)	1/9/2000 to 31/8/2002	2015/16
January 2016	Current school year 11 catch-up programme	1/9/1999 to 31/8/2000	2015/16
April 2016	Current school year 13	1/9/1997 to 31/8/1998	2015/16
April 2017	Current school year 12s (who will be school year 13 at the time)	1/9/1998 to 31/8/1999	2016/17

ACWY vaccines

As a reminder, two vaccines, Menveo and Nimenrix, are available for the programme.



Menveo

- Supplied in a five-dose pack as a powder in a vial and a solution in a vial (10 vials per pack).
- Additional patient information leaflets (PILs) will be supplied with each pack of five vaccines ordered. Please discard the PIL in the pack and use only the additional PILs which have been provided.
- No needles are supplied with this product.



Nimenrix

- Supplied in a single-dose pack as a powder in a vial (MenACWY) and 0.5ml solvent in a pre-filled syringe.
- Two needles are included in the pack.
- A certain volume of Nimenrix will be supplied in general export pack rather than a UK pack.
- Additional patient information leaflets (PILs) will be delivered alongside vaccine supplied in general export packs

MenC vaccines

With ordering now open for MenACWY vaccine for the routine adolescent programme (years 9 and 10), it is possible that providers will have stocks of Men C vaccine (NeisVac-C) remaining. This stock should continue to be held locally and can be used to vaccinate those who require it in line with the Green Book chapter on meningococcal (see [weblink 7](#)). If stock expires it should be disposed of in line with local policies and recorded on ImmForm as a vaccine wastage incident.

MenB and paracetamol

The Men B vaccine, Bexsero, is available to order through ImmForm.

Bexsero is supplied as a prefilled syringe in **packs of ten**, without needles and with one patient information leaflet (PIL). Additional PILs will be supplied with each pack of ten Bexsero ordered.

Sachets of infant paracetamol oral suspension (120mg/5ml) in boxes of 12, supplied with measuring devices are currently available to order separately through the ImmForm website. Ordering will only be open for an initial period from the start of the programme, until communications advising parents on the need to have paracetamol in advance of the vaccination appointment are well established, which is likely to be early 2016.

BCG vaccine availability

BCG vaccine is available to order through ImmForm.

More detailed information about prioritisation and administration of the vaccine can be found in the Vaccine Update special edition published in September (see [weblink 8](#)).

Gardasil 2 dose Patient Information Leaflet (PIL)

Gardasil ordered through ImmForm is now supplied with a 2 dose PIL in pack rather than the 3 dose PIL. PHE will therefore no longer be sending out separate loose 2 dose PILs with each order for Gardasil.

MMRVaxPro

In order to balance stocks of measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccines, MMRVaxPro is currently capped to one order of 4 doses per ImmForm account per week. As an alternative, Priorix is available through ImmForm without restriction. The vaccines are interchangeable in the schedule.

Vaccine deliveries over the Christmas and New Year holidays

Due to the Christmas holidays, there will be **no deliveries or order processing** by Movianto UK on:

- Friday 25 December 2015
- Monday 28 December 2015
- Friday 1 January 2016

Please bear in mind when placing orders, deliveries which would fall on these days will instead be made on the next regularly scheduled delivery day, for example if your delivery day is Friday, the cut off for placing an order for vaccine for use over the holiday period is 11:55am on Wednesday 16 December. If you miss this date, the next Friday delivery will not be until Friday 8 January.

Please see the table below for revised order cut off and delivery dates. The normal ordering and delivery cycle resumes on Monday 4 January*.

You 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, bearing in mind the recommendation that only two to four weeks of vaccine stock be held at any one time.

Christmas Bank holidays		
Delivery date	Order cut-off date	Order cut-off time
Monday 21 December	Thursday 17 December	11:55 AM
Tuesday 22 December	Friday 18 December	11:55 AM
Wednesday 23 December	Monday 21 December	11:55 AM
Thursday 24 December	Tuesday 22 December	11:55 AM
Friday 25 December	CLOSED – NO DELIVERIES	
Monday 28 December	CLOSED – NO DELIVERIES	
Tuesday 29 December	Wednesday 23 December	11:55 AM
Wednesday 30 December	Thursday 24 December	11:55 AM
Thursday 31 December	Tuesday 29 December	11:55 AM
Friday 1 January	CLOSED – NO DELIVERIES	
Monday 4 January*	Wednesday 30 December	11:55 AM
Tuesday 5 January	Thursday 31 December	11:55 AM
Wednesday 6 January	Monday 4 January	11:55 AM
Thursday 7 January	Tuesday 5 January	11:55 AM
Friday 8 January	Wednesday 6 January	11:55 AM

* As Scotland has a bank holiday on Monday 4 January, no deliveries will be made to Scotland on that day.

Please be advised that Emergency or 'Out of Schedule' deliveries cannot be arranged for failure to place orders in good time.

Web links

- web link 1 <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/meningococcal-acwy-menacwy-vaccination-programme>
- web link 2 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/meningococcal-b-vaccine-information-for-healthcare-professionals>
- web link 3 https://www.orderline.dh.gov.uk/ecom_dh/public/saleproduct.jsf?catalogueCode=3083756
- web link 4 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immunisation-training-of-healthcare-support-workers-national-minimum-standards-and-core-curriculum>
- web link 5 http://www.rcn.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/641918/RCN_PHE_immunisation_TOOL_2015_WEB.pdf
- web link 6 http://www.rcn.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/641917/RCNguidance_immunisation_2015-update_WEB.pdf
- web link 7 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/meningococcal-the-green-book-chapter-22>
- web link 8 https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/461653/PHE__9494_VU_233_Sept_2015_special_BGC_11_web.pdf



Best wishes to Chris Owen on his retirement, from all at Public Health England.