



Immunisation news

Meningococcal group ACWY vaccination programme launched

There was considerable media coverage of this important event immediately prior to and following the press release published on Monday 3 August – see [web link 1](#). From that day, GPs will be inviting teenagers aged 17 and 18 (born between 1 September 1996 and 31 August 1997) for the vaccine. All adolescents born between 1 September 1996 and 31 August 1997 in England are eligible for vaccination regardless of their future plans.

Where possible, it's important that anyone who plans to go to university for the first time this year gets vaccinated before they leave home, including overseas and mature students, up to 25 years of age. This group is at increased risk of getting meningococcal disease, as many of them will be mixing closely with lots of new people at university, some of whom may unknowingly carry the meningococcal bacteria.

The vaccine is being introduced in response to a rapidly growing increase in cases of a highly aggressive strain of meningococcal disease, group W. Cases of MenW have been increasing year-on-year, from 22 cases in 2009 to 117 in 2014. It is currently responsible for around a quarter of all laboratory-confirmed meningococcal cases in England.

Materials to support the programme are available to view and order – see [web links 5 and 4](#) and the Resources section below.

Substituting vaccine manufacturer's needles for other needles

PHE has received reports that some immunisers are not using the needles supplied with vaccines and instead are using alternative brands of sharp safe needle devices, which on occasion have not fitted the vaccine syringe properly. Immunisers should be aware that if a vaccine manufacturer supplies needles with their product the expectation is that those needles will be used to administer the vaccine.

Immunisers using or considering using needles other than those supplied by the vaccine manufacturer should seek advice from the manufacturer and their employers' medicines management team. Further advice for employers and employees on compliance with the Health and Safety (Sharp Instruments in Healthcare) Regulations 2013 can be found at [web link 2](#).

MenB immunisation and paracetamol

From 1 September 2015, all infants born on or after 1 July will be eligible for the MenB vaccine which will be administered together with other primary immunisations at two, four and 12 months.

A total of three doses of prophylactic paracetamol is recommended following MenB vaccine when given with these routine primary baby immunisations, usually at the ages of two and four months. An optional protocol is available for the supply or administration of a first dose of infant paracetamol suspension with the first dose of MenB vaccine (see [web link 8](#)). PHE provides this protocol as a resource and it is entirely up to providers whether they utilise it or not.

Immunisers should be aware that babies born before 32 weeks' gestation should have paracetamol prescribed for them according to their weight rather than being supplied with a sachet of infant paracetamol or by parents purchasing paracetamol from a pharmacist or retail outlet. Parents should then be advised to follow the dosing instructions on the prescribed paracetamol.

Parents of all other babies receiving a first dose of MenB vaccine with their primary immunisations should be given a copy of the paracetamol parent information leaflet. This will be supplied with the boxes of infant paracetamol suspension using a ratio of 20 leaflets per box of 12 paracetamol sachets. The leaflet is being supplied in greater numbers than the paracetamol sachets as not all parents will require the infant paracetamol sachets because some may have already purchased their own supply. However, all parents should be given a copy of the paracetamol parent leaflet as the dosing instructions, which are unique to preventing fever following MenB immunisations and sanctioned by the Commission on Human Medicines, are included in this leaflet and may differ from the patient information sheet that accompanies general sales list infant paracetamol suspension.

Shingles vaccine eligibility 2015/16

The chart on the next page summarises the dates of birth and ages of those who are eligible for the shingles vaccination from 1 September 2015. Basically, all those aged 70 and 78 on this date are eligible, as are all those who were eligible in the previous two years but missed out on their vaccinations.

The chart is also available as a poster for those who would like to print it out (see Resources section)

Further information can also be found in the shingles letter for 2015/16 which has recently been published at [web link 17](#).

Please note that shingles vaccination can be administered at the same time as other immunisations for this age group, such as flu and pneumococcal disease. GP practice staff should therefore consider offering shingles vaccination when patients attend for their annual flu vaccine this autumn.

Who's eligible for the shingles vaccine in 2015/16 and beyond?

Date of birth [†]	Current age	First became or will become eligible	Eligible in 2015/16
On or after 1 September 1946	69 or under	2016/17 onwards	No
2 September 1944 to 1 September 1945	70	2015/16	Yes
2 September 1943 to 1 September 1944	71	2014/15	Yes
2 September 1942 to 1 September 1943	72	2013/14	Yes
2 September 1941 to 1 September 1942	73	2020/21*	No
2 September 1940 to 1 September 1941	74	2019/20*	No
2 September 1939 to 1 September 1940	75	2018/19*	No
2 September 1938 to 1 September 1939	76	2017/18*	No
2 September 1937 to 1 September 1938	77	2016/17*	No
2 September 1936 to 1 September 1937	78	2015/16	Yes
2 September 1935 to 1 September 1936	79	2014/15	Yes (up to 80 th birthday)
2 September 1934 to 1 September 1935	80	2014/15	No
2 September 1933 to 1 September 1934	81	2013/14	No
On or before 1 September 1933	82	Never have been eligible	No

* These are anticipated dates that will be confirmed nearer the time because they are dependent on vaccine supply and contractual negotiations

† inclusive

Resources

MenB publications

The 'Three-minute' one third A4 (DL) guide is designed to provide parents with all the basic facts about the MenB vaccinations in order to give consent for their babies to have the vaccine.

The *Protecting your baby against meningitis and septicaemia* A5 leaflet is for those parents who would like more detailed information before consenting to the vaccination.



Similarly, the *MenB vaccine now available – information about the MenB vaccine and paracetamol use* A5 leaflet provides basic information about giving babies paracetamol after their MenB vaccinations, while the *Using paracetamol to prevent and treat fever after MenB vaccinations* A4 leaflet gives much more detailed information including pictograms of how to administer the oral vaccine.

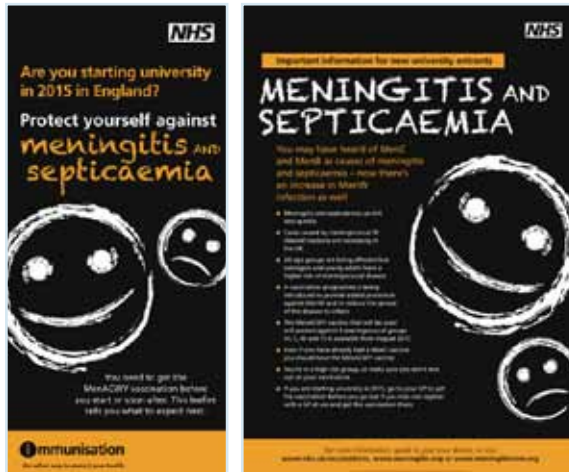


There are also these two posters – one for general use in clinics, nurseries, surgeries etc and the other specifically for A&E departments alerting staff to the possibility that a baby presenting with fever may well have had a MenB vaccination within the previous 48 hours.

All of these MenB resources are listed at

[web link 3](#) and are now available to order in the usual way at [web link 4](#).

Demand can fluctuate markedly resulting in materials going out of stock at short notice but orders will be logged and fulfilled as soon as stocks are replenished.



MenACWY leaflets and posters for overseas and mature students

These publications are aimed at students who have just started their first year at university and have arrived from overseas or who are mature students (up to the age of 25) and who have not yet had their MenACWY vaccination.

Both are available to view at [web link 5](#) and order via [web link 4](#).

MenACWY template letters and consent form for schools programme

A consent form and letter templates for head teachers and parents on the meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY) programme in schools are now available at [web link 18](#). These documents are templates to be adapted for use locally and provided to schools for information or for schools to distribute to eligible students, along with the appropriate MenACWY leaflet.

Flu leaflets

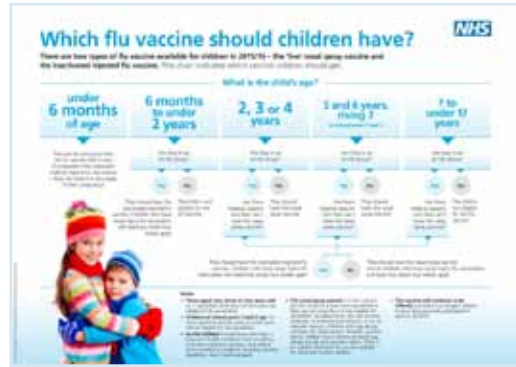


As in previous years, *The flu vaccination Winter 2015/16 Who should have it and why* and *Flu, your pregnancy and you* leaflets are now available to order at [web link 4](#). They can be viewed at [web link 6](#) along with a training slide set, a toolkit for extending the vaccination programme to children and template letters for surgeries to invite at risk patients and parents of two- to four-year olds to bring their children for the flu vaccination.

New for this year is an information leaflet for people with learning disabilities that can be viewed at [web link 20](#). It can also be ordered through the orderline at [web link 4](#).

Which flu vaccine should children have?

Primarily aimed at health professionals, this chart summarises the ages at which children should receive their flu vaccinations and which flu vaccine they should have depending on whether they are at risk or not. It's available to download at [web link 7](#).

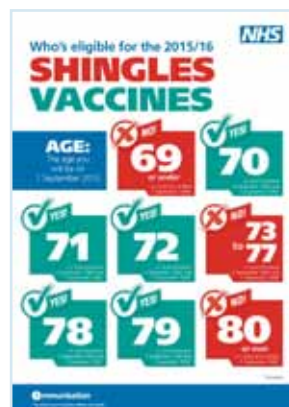


Immunisation schedules

Available as pdfs only for local downloading and printing, these have been updated to accommodate the MenB and MenACWY vaccinations and the addition of seven- and eight-year-olds to the flu vaccination programme. They can be viewed at [web links 9 and 10](#).

What to expect after vaccinations

Updated to include the possible side effects of the MenB vaccine, this leaflet can be viewed at [web link 11](#) and is available to order at [web link 4](#).



Shingles vaccine eligibility posters

Quick-reference posters for downloading and printing out locally. See above and [web link 12](#).

Patient Group Directions (PGDs)

Templates of the PGDs for the shingles, MenB, MenACWY and rotavirus vaccines are now available at [web link 24](#).

Flu immunisation training resources

Two training slide sets – one for the national flu programme and one specifically focusing on the childhood flu programme – have recently been published at [web link 25](#) along with updated childhood flu programme Q&As (entitled ‘Information for healthcare practitioners’).

A flu immunisation elearning programme, written by PHE, and produced by Health Education England’s eLearning for Healthcare (e-LfH), is newly available this year (see [web link 16](#)). The programme consists of a core knowledge and accompanying assessment session, followed by knowledge and assessment sessions on the live and inactivated flu vaccines. After completing the core knowledge, practitioners can choose to complete one or both of the vaccine specific sessions depending on which session(s) is relevant to their role. This short, interactive elearning programme should be an interesting and enjoyable way to test and/or improve your knowledge of the flu vaccination programme.

Information on how to access this elearning is provided on the homepage. In addition to the usual method of registration for those employed by the NHS or eligible to register for e-LfH programmes, this programme has also been made available via ‘Open access’ so that anyone who wishes to undertake this programme can do so.

Green Book updates

Chapter 22 Meningococcal

This chapter has been updated to incorporate the information regarding the MenB and MenACWY vaccination programmes and can be viewed at [web link 21](#).

Chapter 28a Shingles

At [web link 22](#) this chapter has also been recently updated.

Vaccine supply

Influenza vaccine supply for the children’s part of the national flu vaccination programme

As in previous years, PHE has centrally procured flu vaccine for all those children in this year’s phase of the programme including those aged from six months to less than 18 years old in clinical risk groups. This is to simplify the supply of Fluenz Tetra and inactivated flu vaccine for GPs and other providers during the phased implementation of the children’s part of the flu vaccination programme. This covers Fluenz Tetra (live attenuated influenza vaccine) and inactivated flu vaccines for those children for whom Fluenz Tetra is contraindicated or not suitable.

Apart from this central procurement of vaccine for children less than 18 years of age, it remains the responsibility of general practices to order sufficient flu vaccine for older eligible patients of the flu programme in 2015/16 directly from manufacturers.

The following vaccines will be available for the 2015 influenza season for children, and are expected to be available to order via the ImmForm website starting from late September. Please check the ImmForm news item for further updates.

Vaccine	Manufacturer	Indicative date for ordering to start
Fluenz Tetra	AstraZeneca UK Ltd	For schools based programmes: anticipated week ending 25 September
		For GP based delivery: anticipated week ending 2 October
Inactivated influenza vaccine (split virion) BP	Sanofi Pasteur MSD	Anticipated week ending 11 September
Fluarix Tetra	GSK	Anticipated week ending 11 September

Please refer to guidance from your respective health departments on supply of influenza vaccines in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The vaccines are supplied for the following cohorts:

Vaccine	Type	Age indication	Cohort
Fluenz Tetra, AstraZeneca UK Ltd	Quadrivalent live attenuated	From 24 months to less than 18 years of age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds* All children of school years 1 and 2 age[†] All primary school-aged children from areas that conducted pilots for this age group in 14/15 All children from 2 years to less than 18 years old in clinical risk groups
Fluarix Tetra, GSK	Quadrivalent inactivated	From 3 years of age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children in the above cohorts aged from 3 years who are contraindicated for Fluenz Tetra
Inactivated influenza vaccine (split virion) BP, Sanofi Pasteur MSD	Trivalent inactivated	From 6 months of age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children aged 6 months to less than 2 years in a clinical risk group Children aged less than 3 years who are contraindicated for Fluenz Tetra

* i.e. aged 2, 3 or 4 years on 31 August 2015

[†] On 31 August 2015

MenACWY vaccine availability

MenACWY vaccine ordering is currently open. Please refer to the ImmForm news item for details.

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.

Availability of ACWY vaccine to order for each phase of the programme remains as follows:

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?	What age will the pupils be when they receive the vaccine?	In which academic year will the vaccine start to be given?
Now. There may be periods of unavailability as noted above	Current school year 13s	17 to 19	2014/15
Expected to be available September, in line with start of new academic year	Older university entrants (freshers' programme)	19 to 24	2014/15
September 2015	Routine adolescent programme (school year 9 or 10)	13 to 15	2015/16
January 2016	Current school year 10 catch-up programme (who will be school year 11 at the time)	15 to 16	2015/16
April 2016	Current school year 12s (who will be school year 13 at the time)	17 to 18	2015/16
April 2017	Current school year 11s (who will be school year 13 at the time)	17 to 18	2016/17

ACWY vaccines

As a reminder, two vaccines, Menveo and Nimenrix, will be 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 supplied with vaccine supplied in general export pack.

Use of general export packs of Nimenrix for the MenACWY programme



In order to secure as much MenACWY vaccine as possible, some packs of Nimenrix are being delivered in 'general export packs' with multi-lingual packaging (English, French and Spanish), as illustrated. These packs will gradually be phased out and replaced by UK specific packs. Please note that the vaccine contained in the general export packs is compliant with all specifications and standards for the UK market. A single copy of

the UK approved Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) will be provided with each pack of the vaccine distributed, but the pack itself does not contain a PIL for each dose.

GSK has produced a letter to provide additional information about the use of the general export packs of Nimenrix. See [web link 19](#) (Please note that this is only viewable to ImmForm account holders. Log-in to ImmForm will be required). For convenience, this link will be prominently displayed on the ImmForm vaccine ordering website.

The general export packs of Nimenrix will not include a detachable sticker for use in record keeping, and so this information will have to be transcribed manually.

Spot the difference – Nimenrix or Menitorix?



The newly-introduced MenACWY vaccine – Nimenrix – comes in packaging that is similar to that of the Hib/MenC vaccine – Menitorix. When taking these vaccines from the fridge please make sure you select the correct one for the patient, one of whom who will be 14 years or older and the other 12 to 13 months old.

Zostavax supply (shingles vaccine)

The shingles vaccine Zostavax® remains available to order via the ImmForm website. Until 31 August 2015, GPs should continue to offer shingles vaccine to all those who were aged 70, 78 or 79 on 1 September 2014.

As noted above ([see p.2](#)), shingles vaccine should be given alongside the flu vaccine where possible. Please remember that Zostavax has a relatively short shelf life, so don't over order. Any unused stock on 31 August 2015 can be used to immunise those requiring immunisation in the third year of the programme, from 1 September 2015. Please ensure that stocks of vaccine are rotated in fridges so that that wastage is minimised, and remember to check expiry dates.

Men B vaccine and paracetamol now available



The Meningitis B vaccination programme for infants starts on 1 September 2015.

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

Bexsero is supplied as a pre-filled 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.

Please ensure sufficient fridge space is available for the new vaccine. Two to four weeks of stock is recommended. Please remember that the vaccine will be supplied in packs of ten. It is recommended that each site holding vaccine review stocks of all vaccines regularly to ensure adequate storage capacity for future deliveries.

Sachets of paracetamol oral suspension (120mg/5ml) in boxes of 12, supplied with measuring devices are available to order separately through the ImmForm website. Ordering will 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.

Please remember that centrally-purchased vaccines for the national immunisation programme for the NHS can only be ordered via ImmForm and are provided free of charge to organisations providing NHS services. Vaccines for private prescriptions, occupational health use or travel are **NOT** provided free of charge and should be ordered from the manufacturer.

For outbreaks and contacts, vaccine should be procured locally directly from the manufacturer. Further information about ImmForm is available at ImmForm Helpsheet or from the ImmForm helpdesk at helpdesk@immform.org.uk or Tel: 0844 376 0040

BCG vaccine

BCG vaccine remains unavailable to order through the ImmForm website, due to delays in supply from the manufacturer, Statens Serum Institute in Denmark.

We continue to have close dialogue with the manufacturer with a view to restoring deliveries to the UK as soon as possible. We will provide updates through the ImmForm news item and Vaccine update.

Each pack of BCG vaccine contains ten vials with ten adult doses per vial (i.e. 100 doses) and efforts should be made to ensure efficient use of existing stocks, following the prioritisation advice set out in [Vaccine Update March issue](#).

If additional stock is required in an emergency please contact the ImmForm helpdesk on 0844 376 0040.

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.

August Bank holiday vaccine deliveries

Due to the August Bank holiday, there will be **no deliveries or order processing** by Movianto UK on Monday 31 August 2015. Please see the table below for revised order and delivery dates.

For customers with standard delivery dates of Monday, please be aware that after 24 August, your next available delivery day will be **7 September 2015**.

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.

August Bank holiday orders and deliveries

August Bank holiday – Monday 31 August 2015		
Delivery date	Order cut-off date	Order cut-off time
Monday 24 August	Thursday 20 August	11:55 am
Tuesday 25 August	Friday 21 August	11:55 am
Wednesday 26 August	Monday 24 August	11:55 am
Thursday 27 August	Tuesday 25 August	11:55 am
Friday 28 August	Wednesday 26 August	11:55 am
Monday 31 August	Closed – No DELIVERIES	
Tuesday 1 September	Thursday 27 August	11:55 am
Wednesday 2 September	Friday 28 August	11:55 am
Thursday 3 September	Tuesday 1 September	11:55 am
Friday 4 September	Wednesday 2 September	11:55 am

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

The ImmForm Team

helpdesk@immform.org.uk

0844 376 0040



Error in Flu vaccine ovalbumin content table corrected

This table on page 9 of last month's issue ([web link 13](#)) incorrectly stated that the Age indication for Sanofi Pasteur MSD's Inactivated influenza vaccine (split virion) BP was 'From five months.' This has now been corrected to 'From six months', see also [web link 14](#).

Please amend your bookmarks or Favourites, if necessary.

A timely reminder – maintaining the cold chain

Whether we get a heat wave or not, it's vital that the cold chain is maintained when transporting or storing vaccines, see [web link 23](#).

Owzat?! 101, over and out

The cricketers among you will know that many batsmen (batspersons?) get out on 99 and 101. For some, the pressure of reaching 100 just gets too much and for others the relief of making 101 leads to over-relaxation. Well, after putting together 101 issues of Vaccine update since 2007, I'm tucking my lap-top under my arm and heading off to the pavilion to start my retirement.

It's been a pleasure and a privilege to have been given the responsibility of putting the newsletter together every month. I trust it has proved useful and informative to you and, eventually, to the population as a whole. And, of course, without your skills, knowledge, energy and enthusiasm in implementing all the vaccination programmes that have been introduced since 2007 and before (see [web link 15](#)), my work would have been in vain.

So, with my sincere gratitude and my best wishes to you all for the continuing success of the leading national vaccination programme in the world (so I'm told and I've no reason to doubt it), I declare my innings over.

Thank you and farewell.

Chris Owen

(Ex) co-ordinating editor

PS *Vaccine update* will continue, of course, and a new editor will be appointed in the near future.



Web links

- web link 1 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-meningococcal-vaccination-programme-expected-to-save-lives>
- web link 2 <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/hsis7.htm>
- web link 3 <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/meningococcal-b-menb-vaccination-programme>
- web link 4 https://www.orderline.dh.gov.uk/ecom_dh/public/home.jsf
- web link 5 <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/meningococcal-acwy-menacwy-vaccination-programme>
- web link 6 <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/annual-flu-programme>
- web link 7 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/which-flu-vaccine-should-children-have>
- web link 8 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/menb-vaccine-and-paracetamol>
- web link 9 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-complete-routine-immunisation-schedule>
- web link 10 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/routine-childhood-immunisation-schedule>
- web link 11 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-to-expect-after-vaccinations>
- web link 12 <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/shingles-vaccination-programme>
- web link 13 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vaccine-update-issue-230-june-2015>
- web link 14 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/influenza-vaccines-2015-to-2016-flu-season>
- web link 15 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vaccination-timeline>
- web link 16 <http://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/flu-immunisation/>
- web link 17 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/shingles-immunisation-programme-letter>
- web link 18 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/menacwy-school-consent-form-and-letter-templates>
- web link 19 <https://portal.immform.dh.gov.uk/VaccineSupply/VaccineSupply/News/test.aspx>
- web link 20 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-leaflet-for-people-with-learning-disability>
- web link 21 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/meningococcal-the-green-book-chapter-22>
- web link 22 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/shingles-herpes-zoster-the-green-book-chapter-28a>
- web link 23 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vaccine-update-issue-204>
- web link 24 <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-patient-group-direction-pgd>
- web link 25 <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/annual-flu-programme>