



GP based programmes for meningococcal vaccines

Explanation of the GP based programmes for meningococcal vaccines – which contract and which vaccine should be used for catching up children who missed vaccination at their allotted time

The MenACWY programme

The current ACWY programme is being undertaken as a replacement for the MenC booster programme targeted at teenagers in school (normally given in year 9 or 10 at school), with a catch-up programme for young adults. The GP based components of the programme are outlined below:

- In financial year, 2015/16 there was a MenACWY programme targeted at 17/18 year olds (born between 01/09/1996 and 31/08/1997) who were leaving school in summer 2015 and for freshers starting university in Autumn 2015. These groups were eligible for MenACWY vaccine regardless of their prior MenC status, and practices were reimbursed by an Enhanced Service payment.
- For financial year 2016/17, the MenACWY programme is again targeted at 17/18 years olds (born between 01/09/1997-31/08/1998) who are leaving school in summer 2016 and for freshers (born between 1/4/1991-31/08/1997) who start university/further education in Autumn 2016.
- The new specification also allows for catch-up with MenACWY vaccine for those who were school leaving age in summer 2015 (as above) but did not receive vaccination during 2015/16. These individuals will remain eligible up until the age of 25 years. Again this vaccine should be given regardless of prior MenC status, but vaccination is not required for those who have already received a dose of MenACWY conjugate vaccine after the age of 10 years.
- The General Medical Service (GMS) Statement of Financial Entitlement (SFE) also makes provision for GP practices to offer vaccine opportunistically to children who miss out on the routine school based MenACWY vaccination programme usually given in year 9/10. Any patient born on or after the 1 April 2001, who has missed the school based dose, will remain eligible for this vaccine up to the age of 25 years.

The MenC programme

MenC vaccine was introduced in 1999 as a three dose infant programme, with catch-up to 25 years of age. The routine schedule changed in 2006 and in 2013. From July 2016 no single MenC vaccine will be part of the routine UK schedule. Hib-MenC will continue to be routinely offered at one year of age, and MenACWY offered in school year 9/10.

The GMS Statement of Financial Entitlement (SFE) makes provision for GP practices to opportunistically catch-up anyone aged six years or over who presents up to the age of 25 years who is unimmunised or partially immunised against MenC. The purpose of this payment is to ensure protection against MenC and so vaccination with any of the MenC containing vaccines (MenC, Hib-MenC or ACWY vaccine) would offer this protection.

From 1 July this year, single MenC will no longer be supplied for the UK programme and so catch-up would normally be conducted with a combination vaccine as follows:

- For those aged between six and nine years, children should have received at least one dose of MenC (normally given as combined Hib-MenC) above the age of one year. Those who have missed this dose may also require catch-up for Hib, and so it makes sense to offer a Hib-MenC (Menitorix) vaccine to any children who are incompletely immunised against MenC. These children will become eligible for ACWY vaccine at school.
- For those aged 10 years or over, these individuals may also be eligible, or will shortly become eligible, for MenACWY. Therefore it makes sense to offer anyone aged over 10 years who has NEVER received a MenC-containing vaccine a single dose of ACWY vaccine. In patients who are also eligible under the MenACWY programme (above), practices should only claim once for the vaccine administration.

Children under six years should have received at least one dose of MenC (normally given as combined Hib-MenC) above the age of one year. The vaccination of these children with Hib-MenC (Menitorix) is covered by the additional services funded under the global sum within the SFE.

Removal of the infant dose of meningococcal serogroup C (MenC) conjugate vaccine given at three months of age from 1 July 2016

In June 2015 the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advised that infants no longer require vaccination against meningococcal serogroup C (MenC) as, due to the success of the MenC programme introduced in 1999, there are now very few cases of invasive MenC disease, and also because the MenC / MenACWY conjugate vaccination programme is expected to sustain good herd protection and therefore the risk to infants will remain low.

MenC Vaccine Ordering

As noted above, the MenC infant vaccination programme will cease on 1 July 2016. MenC vaccine (NeisVac-C®) will continue to remain available to order through ImmForm until 1 July 2016.

Locally held stocks of NeisVac-C® should be carefully reviewed before ordering more vaccine, to take account of the cessation date and to ensure vaccine is not ordered unnecessarily. Any stock remaining in fridges on 1 July 2016 should be retained until it expires at which point it should be disposed of in line with local policies. Any stock disposal should be recorded on the ImmForm website as a stock incident.

MenACWY adolescent programme

MenACWY coverage in the first priority catch-up cohort

A preliminary estimate of vaccine coverage for the first cohort offered MenACWY vaccine through GP-practices as part of an urgent catch-up programme was published in March 2016. At the end of January 2016, coverage of MenACWY vaccine from August 2015 (those born between 1 September 1996 and 31 August 1997) was 33.7%. The report can be found at [weblink 6](#).

This urgent catch-up programme was originally due to run until 31 March 2016 and an estimate of cumulative coverage to that date will be published later this year. However, from April 2016, those in this cohort who have not received vaccine continue to be eligible for MenACWY, as detailed above and below in vaccine ordering.

Coverage estimates for the school-based routine and catch-up MenACWY programmes delivered in the 2015/16 academic year will be captured in an annual survey in September 2016 and are expected to be published in late 2016.

Nimenrix ordering restriction

The MenACWY vaccine Nimenrix is currently restricted to 40 doses per order per week to balance central stocks. The alternative MenACWY vaccine Menveo remains available without restriction.

Menveo is supplied with 5 doses per pack (5 vials of powder and 5 vials of solution). Please check your order before confirming to ensure you have ordered the correct number of doses.

Please note, additional patient information leaflets (PILs) will be supplied with each pack Menveo ordered. Please discard the PIL in the pack and use only the additional PILs which have been provided. Additionally, no needles are supplied with this product.

MenACWY vaccines Nimenrix and Menveo

Availability of MenACWY vaccines for each phase of the MenW programme is below. When ordering these vaccines it's important to only order sufficient for your immediate needs. Over-ordering may lead to shortages and potentially deprive others of a supply.

Vaccine available from:	Which school year of pupils is the vaccine for?	Dates of birth of pupils/students who will receive the vaccine (inclusive)
Available now (opened 1 April 2016)	Current school year 13 catch-up programme	1/9/1997 to 31/8/1998
Available now (opened 1 Jan 2016)	Current school year 11 catch-up programme	1/9/1999 to 31/8/2000
Available now (opened Sept 2015)	Routine adolescent programme (current school year 9 or 10)	1/9/2000 to 31/8/2002
Available now for those that missed vaccination	2014/15 school year 13s	1/9/1996 to 31/8/1997
Available now for those that missed vaccination	Older university entrants (freshers' programme)	1/9/1990 to 31/8/1996
1 April 2017	Current school year 12s (who will be school year 13 when the vaccine becomes available in academic year 2016/17)	1/9/1998 to 31/8/1999

Primary infant vaccine

Ordering for Pediacel is currently restricted to 3 doses per order, per week in England. Restrictions are also in place for Wales and Scotland. Infanrix IPV Hib is available to order, with no restriction on volume.

Where possible and if local stock allows, it is preferable that the same DTaP/IPV-Hib containing vaccine be used for all three doses of the primary course. However, vaccination should never be delayed because the vaccine used for previous doses is not known or unavailable.

Administration of MenB booster

From 1 May 2016, infants turning one year old will be due to receive a MenB booster with their other booster vaccines and their first dose of MMR. As MenB is still a relatively new vaccine, it is recommended that, as with the infant doses, this vaccine is administered into the left thigh, ideally on its own, so that any local reactions can be monitored more accurately.

As vaccines can be given into the deltoid area of the upper arm from one year of age, it is recommended that the other vaccines due at one year of age (Hib/MenC, PCV and MMR) be given into the remaining three limbs. If it is not possible to use the arms, it is recommended that the MMR, as the vaccine least likely to cause local reactions, is given in the same thigh as the MenB and the PCV and Hib/MenC boosters are given into the other thigh.

If more than one vaccine is given in the same limb, it is recommended that they should be given at least 2.5cm apart and the site at which each vaccine is given should be noted in the child's clinical record.

Reminder that paracetamol does not need to be advised when children receive their 12 month MenB booster dose

In clinical vaccine trials, the most common adverse reaction observed in infants and children under two years of age was a high rate of fever (>38°C) when the MenB vaccine Bexsero was administered at the same time as other routine childhood vaccines. As a result, the JCVI recommended the use of prophylactic liquid paracetamol when infants receive Bexsero® at the same time as other routine childhood vaccines such as DTaP/IPV/Hib at 2, 3 and 4 months of age. As these vaccines are not administered as part of the 12 months booster vaccines, there is no requirement to offer liquid paracetamol at this time.

You can find answers to further questions about the MenB vaccine, including those from parents who express concerns about their child receiving four vaccines in one visit, in the document “Immunisation against meningococcal B disease for infants aged from two months: Information for healthcare professionals” available on the PHE website at [weblink 7](#).

BCG vaccine availability and use of batch 114022A beyond labelled expiry (29/02/2016)

See Vaccine Update Special Edition issue 244 at [weblink 8](#).

PPD10TU

Due to manufacturing delays, PPD10TU (Mantoux) ordering through the ImmForm is currently closed. If you require PPD10TU, please contact the ImmForm helpdesk. PPD2TU remains available to NHS customers, with a restriction of 1 pack, per account, per week in place, but is closed for private accounts.

Attention all customers – Bank holiday delivery warning notice

Due to the May Bank Holiday, there will be no deliveries or order processing by Movianto UK on Monday 2 May 2016.

- For customers with a delivery date of Monday 2 May, please be aware that after 25 April, your next delivery day will be 9 May.
- For customers who require a delivery on Tuesday 3 May or Wednesday 4 May, orders will need to be placed before 11:55AM on 28 or 29 April respectively.

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

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.

May Bank holiday – 2016		
Delivery date	Order cut-off date	Order cut-off time
Monday 25 April	Thursday 21 April	11:55 AM
Tuesday 26 April	Friday 22 April	11:55 AM
Wednesday 27 April	Monday 25 April	11:55 AM
Thursday 28 April	Tuesday 26 April	11:55 AM
Friday 29 April	Wednesday 27 April	11:55 AM
Monday 2 May	CLOSED – NO DELIVERIES	
Tuesday 3 May	Thursday 28 April	11:55 AM
Wednesday 4 May	Friday 29 April	11:55 AM
Thursday 5 May	Tuesday 3 May	11:55 AM
Friday 6 May	Wednesday 4 May	11:55 AM

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/publications/menc-vaccination-schedule-planned-changes-from-july-2016>
- web link 2 <https://app.box.com/s/iddfb4ppwkmjtjusr2tc>
- web link 3 <https://www.orderline.dh.gov.uk>
- web link 4 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pregnancy-how-to-help-protect-you-and-your-baby>
- web link 5 https://www.orderline.dh.gov.uk/ecom_dh/public/saleproducts.jsf
- web link 6 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/meningococcal-acwy-immunisation-programme-vaccine-coverage-estimates>
- web link 7 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/meningococcal-b-vaccine-information-for-healthcare-professionals>
- web link 8 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vaccine-update-issue-244-april-2016-bcg-supply-special-edition>