Summary of project and achievements

**Hepatitis B vaccination of S1 school pupils**

In conjunction with the Scottish Centre for Environmental Health (SCIEH), a pilot project was launched in 2001/02 with the aim of vaccinating all first year school pupils in Glasgow against Hepatitis B. This so-called ‘universal’ vaccination approach contrasts with the incumbent method where only individuals at high-risk of exposure (e.g. health care workers) are vaccinated. The economists worked on this project to estimate the cost to the health service of conducting a universal schools vaccination programme, both in terms of the economic costs incurred during the pilot programme and the projected annual running costs if the scheme is introduced routinely in Glasgow.

The pilot programme was estimated to have had an economic cost of £396,200 giving a cost per pupil vaccinated of £42. The pilot project used a vaccine schedule that necessitated three doses to be given to each pupil. If however the scheme was rolled out in the future, vaccination could be offered using a two-dose regime. The estimated annual economic cost of the two dose scheme was £296,047 or £33 per pupil. Further work is planned to enable comparison of this approach with the current selective vaccination in order to assess which approach is the more cost-effective.

**Date**
Completed 2003

**Location**
Glasgow secondary schools

**Key Partners**
SCIEH
Greater Glasgow NHS Board

**Contact**
Ailsa Brown
Health Economist
Greater Glasgow NHS Board, Dalian House, 350 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G3 8YZ
ailsa.brown@gghb.scot.nhs.uk