

NHSGG and CLYDE NEWSLETTER

Public Health Protection Unit (PHPU) 0141 201 4917 www.nhsgg.org.uk/phpu

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Tetanus immunoglobulin stocks

Tetanus immunoglobulin is recommended when an individual has a tetanus-prone wound and is not up-to-date with their vaccinations (see Newsletter May06) as it provides immediate protection. Individuals should also be given a dose of vaccine, if their vaccinations are incomplete, to protect them in the future.

In England, the Department of Health has sent round a letter about the availability of Human Tetanus Immunoglobulin (TIG) for prophylaxis; this is currently limited in England. However in Scotland, the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service (0141 357 7700) has indicated that there are **no problems** with the availability of their product, Liberim™T (Human Tetanus Immunoglobulin)

Hep C MCN co-ordinator

The hepatitis C Managed Care Network (MCN) co-ordinator took up post in June 2006 and is based at the Public Health Protection Unit (PHPU). The first meeting of the new MCN for Hep C in Glasgow & Clyde has already taken place. The MCN is supported by funding from Scottish Executive and identified as a national pilot in the Scottish Executive Action Plan.

Its aims are to:

- engage with primary care, specialist treatment centres, the Board, voluntary sector and patient groups to develop quality and equity of care provided to people living with the HCV virus
- produce an annual work-plan (in development), including regular newsletter and communication with any interested stakeholders especially those working with people diagnosed with, or at risk of, HCV infection
- map the current service-provision and patient pathways in NHSGG&C

For more details of the MCN, to go on distribution list for information & updates, or to inform the MCN of the services you provide to people with HCV contact Justin Schofield on 0141 201 4712 or by e-mail at justin.schofield@gghb.scot.nhs.uk

MenC vaccine - current regime

Menjugate (Chiron) is the current meningococcal C vaccine issued from the vaccine-holding centres. It is presented in 'kit' form with a syringe, pre-filled with diluent, and a vial of vaccine.

Please note that the information leaflet inside the Menjugate pack indicates that this vaccine is licensed as a 2-dose schedule, doses two months apart, rather than the 3-dose schedule currently used in the childhood primary immunisation programme. The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) is aware of this but has recommended **that all meningococcal C vaccines, including Menjugate, should continue to be given as a 3-dose schedule at ages 2, 3 and 4 months of age** until the changes to the primary immunisation programme are implemented later this year.

Vaccine batch-number records

Manufacturers recommend that the batch number printed on the **outer** package of vaccines is the number to be recorded in medical records. This printed number incorporates details of all components of the final product, reconstituted and ready-for-use.

For example, *Menitorix*, the combined MenC/Hib conjugate vaccine manufactured by Glaxo Smith Kline, has one batch number that should be recorded. It is on the outer package and includes the letter **C** (representing the combined product). *Menitorix* is reconstituted from the freeze-dried vaccine component with a batch number containing the letter **F** and a liquid diluent with a batch number containing the letter **D**.

Please note that there is no standard format for batch-numbering systems used by manufacturers and the above example is specific for that vaccine alone.

Should you experience any difficulties when recording vaccine details please contact the pharmacy department at Leverndale hospital for advice on 0141 211 6675.

The Argyll & Clyde merge

Primary-care staff in the former A&C board area and now part of NHSGG should, from July 1st, make all enquiries re immunisation, infection control, Section 47 etc., to 0141 201 4917. Out-of-hours calls (after 5pm and at weekends) should be made to Gartnavel Royal switchboard on 0141 211 3600.

Sandyford community clinics

From October 31st 2005, women, men and young people have been able to access expanded sexual and reproductive health services at Sandyford South East in Govanhill Health Centre's community wing in southeast Glasgow. These services are provided by the Sandyford Initiative and include family planning, tests and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, counselling services, health information and links to NHS, and other services. The services operate on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. To make an appointment, or to check on walk-in clinic times please call 0141 531 8349. For more information about the development, please call 0141 211 6715.

Summer eating

In the summer months, the number of food-poisoning cases rises so whether you're having a barbecue, picnic or summer buffet, it's important to take care when preparing, storing and cooking food. Please note the following food-safety tips.

Barbecues

- Always keep raw food separate from any ready-to-eat foods
- Make sure the charcoal is hot enough before you start to cook
- Always cook meat dishes until they are piping hot all the way through and the juices run clear
- Don't assume that if meat is charred on the outside it's cooked inside
- Always wash your hands after handling raw meat
- Use separate utensils for raw and cooked foods
- Keep food covered to prevent insects getting to it
- Consider pre-cooking poultry, burgers and sausages in the oven and finishing them off on the barbecue when cooking for a large number of people
- Remember that left-over marinade has been in contact with raw meat and therefore must not be used as a sauce

Picnics

- Use a cool-bag with ice packs to keep food cool during the journey
- Don't take food from the 'fridge until the last moment
- Wash your hands or use antiseptic wipes before eating
- Wash fruit and vegetables thoroughly before eating
- If taking pets or visiting a farm etc. make sure that you keep them away from the food and wash your hands or use antiseptic wipes after petting animals
- Make sure your 'fridge is at the right temperature i.e. below 5° C. It's advisable to purchase a 'fridge-thermometer from your local supermarket

If you would like more information on this or other food-safety matters, please contact your local environmental health department.

Flu vaccine supply for 2006/07

Last year saw the highest ever uptake of flu vaccine in Scotland with 77.8% of people aged 65 years and over receiving the vaccine. However, despite ordering more vaccine for the UK for 2006/7 the UK Vaccine Industry Group (UVIG) has alerted the SEHD that manufacturers are encountering problems growing one of the vaccine virus-strains recommended for this year's seasonal flu vaccine. Most supplies of flu vaccine will be distributed later than usual and manufacturers will not know the full extent of the problem - particularly the impact on total quantity of vaccine available - before the end of July /early August 2006.

Given the delay in deliveries, and possible shortfall in total supply, the vaccine must be used for those most in need. **GPs should use their patient registers to appropriately schedule immunisations according to prioritisation with Group 1 first.** The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advises that vaccine be prioritised for those aged 65 years and over and those in the clinical risk groups (see table below with priority grouping).

Rationale	Priority group	Description
Individual risk	1	All over 65years
	1	All over 6 months in the JCVI recommended clinical risk groups only
	2	Those living in long-stay residential care home or other long-stay care facilities where rapid spread is likely to follow introduction of infection and cause high morbidity and mortality (this does not include prisons, young offenders institutions, or university halls of residence)
Public health risk	3	*Carers (using revised 2006 definition)
	4	Health Care Workers
	5	Poultry workers (This group will be immunised through a separate programme outside of the seasonal flu programme)
	6	Demand from any other groups

* A carer is someone, who, without payment, provides help and support to a partner, child or neighbour, who could not manage without their help. This could be due to age, physical or mental illness, addiction or disability. A young carer is a child or young person under the age of 18 carrying out significant caring tasks and assuming a level of responsibility for another person, which would normally be taken by an adult.

GPs are strongly advised to liaise closely with their community pharmacy and arrange clinics only if assured of vaccine supplies.

If you would like to comment on this newsletter contact Marie Laurie on 201 4933 or at marie.laurie@gghb.scot.nhs.uk