

NHSGG and CLYDE NEWSLETTER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Hep B vaccine - clarification
- Bloodborne virus seminars
- Legionella cases
- Hep B vaccine for risk babies
- Measles outbreak-Switzerland
- Immunisation update seminars
- Human papillomavirus vaccine
- Flu-vaccine returns
- Flu-vaccine uptake by CHCP

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

Volume 6 Issue 6

July 2007

Hep B vaccine - clarification

The PHPU receives many enquiries regarding recommendations and eligibility for the hepatitis B vaccine (HBV). It would appear that there is a degree of confusion in some instances as well as a variation in understanding and response to requests in different GP practices.

Given below is a summary of our understanding of the current situation on vaccine indicated/requested for occupational and travel purposes.

Occupational Risks: There is no obligation under the regulations governing GP contracts to administer hepatitis B vaccine for occupational reasons. Patients should be referred to the employer's occupational health services. **However, if GPs, at their discretion, use vaccine from stock or use NHS prescription, they cannot charge patients and/or employers for administering the vaccine.**

Travel Purposes: Hepatitis B vaccine for travel purposes is not available on the NHS under the new GMS contract but can be prescribed privately to patients whether on the practice list or not, incurring a fee for the prescription and administering the vaccine. **If GPs however, at their discretion, use vaccine obtained on stock order or use NHS prescription, they cannot charge patients for administering the vaccine.**

Bloodborne virus seminars

Please note the following update seminars on HIV and hepatitis B & C.

Date	Venue
30 th August 07 1.00 - 4.00pm	Sandyford Initiative Claremont House, 4 th floor, 20 North Claremont Street (Seminar Room)
25 th October 07 1.00 - 4.00 pm	Walton Centre Southern General Hospital (Seminar Room 2)
13 th December 07 1.00 - 4.00 pm	Glasgow Royal Infirmary (Lecture Theatre 1)
21 st February 08 9.00 - 1.00pm	Gartnavel General Hospital Post Graduate Centre Upper Ground, Lecture Theatre

To reserve a place contact the sexual health advisers at Sandyford Services on 0141 211 8634

Legionella cases

Four confirmed cases of Legionnaire's disease reported recently have been linked with hotels in Strathpeffer (Highland region). Three of the cases are from Glasgow and were visiting the area with a holiday company. It is known that 3 of the cases made use of a Jacuzzi in a Strathpeffer hotel on Sunday 17th June. The outbreak control team in NHS Highland contacted all guests who had visited that hotel during the risk period (11th -29th June) to identify any other cases. (The time-frame took into account the incubation period of Legionnaire's disease, 2-10 days, most often 5-6 days).

People become ill with Legionnaires disease through inhalation of airborne aerosols and droplets containing the bacteria. Legionella bacteria are found naturally in many water systems, however, man-made water systems implicated in disease include, cooling towers, air conditioning systems, humidifiers, evaporative condensers, and whirlpool spas. Those most at risk are those aged over 50 who have underlying chronic conditions such as chronic lung disease, renal disease and transplant patients on steroidal therapy. Smokers are particularly at risk within these groups.

The case fatality rate of legionellosis can be over 10% in patients in the highest risk groups. The largest outbreak in the UK to-date was in Barrow in Furness in 2002, where the case fatality rate was only 3%, however, this low rate is thought to be due to factors such as prompt recognition and skilled outbreak management. The source of the infection was a ventilation plant in a council run community arts centre (microbiological sampling demonstrated that legionella bacteria from the source and from human cases was indistinguishable. Treatment consists of antibiotic therapy using erythromycin or the newer macrolides such as clarythromycin and azithromycin, as well as supportive therapy.

Hep B vaccine for risk babies

In last month's newsletter, staff were advised to order hep B vaccine for risk babies from Leverndale pharmacy. This applies to primary care staff in Glasgow.

The PHPU apologises to primary care staff in the Clyde area as advice to them was omitted in error. Clyde staff should also order hep B vaccine for risk babies from their local holding centre (RAH, Inverclyde, Vale of Leven).

Please note that this is a new arrangement.

Measles outbreak - Switzerland

A measles outbreak is occurring in Switzerland. According to a Swiss website for health professionals, 414 measles cases have been notified since January 2007. 236 of these cases occurred in the Canton of Luzern, an area where measles immunisation coverage is only 78 percent, whereas the national immunisation rate is 86 percent. So far, most of the 414 cases have been children or adolescents. **Almost all cases (about 95 percent) were unvaccinated.**

Swiss health authorities are concerned because of a relatively high rate of complications during the current outbreak: **one in 10 people was hospitalized, and severe complications like encephalitis or pneumonia have been observed.** This demonstrates that even in a developed country, measles can cause serious complications leading to permanent disability.

In 2002, the WHO Regional Office for Europe developed and implemented a strategic plan targeting the elimination of measles and the prevention of congenital rubella infection for the year 2010. Measles incidence has decreased in Europe during the past 10 years owing to the introduction of a 2nd dose of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine into routine immunisation programs. Nevertheless, elimination is not yet achieved: even in recent years, despite the implementation of measles-elimination efforts, outbreaks have been reported throughout EU countries, including Germany (1,2), United Kingdom (3), Spain (4), Denmark and Sweden (5), Greece (6) and Italy (7,8). These outbreaks occurred especially in communities with lower immunisation rates; in some instances, the outbreak was related to measles virus importation through international travels.

Immunisation update seminars

Immunisation staff are asked to note the following dates of immunisation-update seminars. Details of booking procedures will be publicised after the summer break.

	Date	Venue
Mon	19 th Nov 07	Conference Room Eastbank Academy
Wed	21 st Nov 07	Blantyre Room Reid Macewen Centre Erskine Hospital
Fri	23 rd Nov 07	Walton Conference Suite Southern General Hospital
Mon	26 th Nov 07	Conference Room Eastbank Academy
Tue	27 th Nov 07	Lecture Theatre Inverclyde Royal Hospital
Thu	29 th Nov 07	Walton Conference Suite, Southern General Hospital
Fri	30 th Nov 07	Lecture Theatre 2 Royal Alexandra Hospital

Human papillomavirus vaccine

The Scottish Executive has agreed, in principle, to accept JCVI advice that HPV vaccines should be introduced routinely for girls aged around 12-13 years, subject to independent peer review of the cost benefit analysis. Funding for this will be considered in the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review. However, in the meantime, GPs are asked not to prescribe this vaccine routinely. Advice from JCVI is still awaited on whether there should be catch-up vaccination programme for those girls/women in the older age group not targeted in the routine programme.

Human Papilloma Viruses cause 99 per cent of invasive cervical cancer. The vaccine protects against the viruses responsible for about 70% of cases.

Routine vaccination of girls could start as early as autumn 2008. Details of the programme will be finalised over the next few months, following further advice from JCVI and discussions with the NHS on the implementation of the programme.

Flu-vaccine return

Please note that GP practices should now return all unused 2006/07 flu-vaccine supplies to the local holding centre. This is necessary to avoid any mixing of supplies as the new-strain vaccine is soon to be supplied for the 07/08 programme.

Practices should contact the local holding centre (Leverndale, Inverclyde, RAH or Vale of Leven pharmacies) to arrange a suitable time/date for a single uplift. Holding centres will instruct their personnel to uplift *only* where prior arrangement has been made.

Flu-vaccine uptake by CHCP

The table below shows the final flu-vaccine uptake rates for 2006/7 by CHCP for those aged over 65yrs.

CHCP	Population 65+	% Uptake
East Dunbartonshire	17355	76.63
East Renfrewshire	13830	77.05
Glasgow East	20803	72.32
Glasgow North	11360	69.07
Glasgow South East	17703	71.9
Glasgow South West	16934	75.53
Glasgow West	20561	71.8
North Lanarkshire	2408	78.03
South Lanarkshire	8154	77.92
West Dunbartonshire	14205	76.36
Inverclyde	11902	74.15
Renfrewshire	27862	75.18
GGCNHSB Total	183077	74.27

Target uptake 70%

If you would like to comment on any aspect of this newsletter please contact Marie Laurie on 201 4933 or at marie.laurie@ggc.scot.nhs.uk