

PHPU Newsletter

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Increase in whooping cough in infants in 2015

In the first part of 2015 the number of laboratory reports of *Bordetella pertussis* in Scotland was comparable to the corresponding period in 2014. In the later part of the year the incidence of pertussis has increased, so that in the first 44 weeks of 2015 there have been 778 laboratory-confirmed cases compared to 430 for the same period in 2014, an increase of 348 (81%).

The increase has been observed across all groups. However, of particular concern is the increase in cases under one year of age. In the first 44 weeks of 2015, there have been 38 infant cases compared to a total of 20 and 19 in the whole of 2014 and 2013 respectively. 19 of the 38 infant cases reported so far in 2015 have been infants aged two months or under. Primary care staff are, therefore, urged to identify all pregnant women in their practice and to maximise vaccination uptake.

Pertussis vaccination uptake in pregnancy, by Health Board, at 30th September 2015, is available on the [link](#)

School-based Men ACWY programme starts 2016

There is a continuing increase in the number of MenW cases being reported in Scotland, as well as the wider UK, with 15 cases in Scotland in the first 43 weeks in 2015, compared to a total of five cases in 2014.

This emergency vaccination programme first targeted eligible school leavers and was undertaken by GP practices. The school-based programme for this year's S3-S6 will commence in early February 2016.

From 2017, all S3 pupils at school will routinely be offered the MenACWY vaccine instead of MenC.

Shingles (Herpes Zoster) vaccination programme - update

This year's programme, 1st September 2015 - 31st August 2016, is targeting people aged 70 years (routine) and 78 years (catch-up) as per [CMO letter](#)

Cumulative [uptake](#) in Scotland at end of October (based on coverage data) is:

27.9% for the age 70 cohort (compared to 27.5% October 2014 and 31.3% October 2013)

25.7% for the age 78 cohort (compared to 27.1% October 2014)

Individual GP practices will receive uptake data and are asked to continue their efforts to maximise uptake.

Seasonal flu immunisation programme - update

Please note the latest seasonal flu vaccination [uptake data](#), by health board, for 2015/16 season

Due to low uptake of the flu vaccines across all groups (compared to this time last year), the Scottish Government has re-run the TV advert aimed at parents of 2-5 year olds (not yet in school) on STV .

GP practices are encouraged to target other risk groups where uptake is lower than this time last year – including pregnant women, over 65s, under 65s at risk.

At this year's immunisation seminars some primary care colleagues noted that if a woman is in good health and has no need to visit her GP during her pregnancy, then they may not always know that she is pregnant. Subsequently, a number of GP practices have shared examples of their practice e.g. using [the letter](#) that practices receive notifying them that a woman has self-referred or been referred by the midwife to the Centralised Maternity Booking Service to support their call and recall system.

Children who miss flu vaccination at school

Any primary school child who, for whatever reason, misses flu immunisation at school, can make an appointment with their GP practice to be immunised, see [CMO letter](#). This has been agreed as part of the DES with GPs for this season [http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/pca/PCA2015\(M\)03.pdf](http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/pca/PCA2015(M)03.pdf).

This year's school flu immunisation programme in NHSGGC began on 1st October and will run until 4th December.

Ordering vaccines from PDC

All practices should now have an individualised order form which should be e-mailed to the PDC using the day of delivery as the e-mail subject ([sample order form](#)). Signed orders may be scanned or e-mail must include name and address of staff authorised to order medicines before sending to vaccines@ggc.scot.nhs.uk. Any practices which have not received the new form should contact agata.janicka@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

Men B and provision of paracetamol

Since the beginning of October community pharmacists can provide paracetamol oral suspension 120mg/5mL for pyrexia in advance of, or following, MenB vaccination and almost all pharmacies in NHS GGC have signed the [PGD](#) authorising its use. Alternatively, GPs can continue to provide paracetamol at the time of vaccination and write a prescription for the two subsequent doses

MenB - public information about prophylactic paracetamol

Following the new arrangement for the provision of prophylactic paracetamol, GP Practices should have now received the most up-to-date copies of the public information leaflet, [Help protect your baby against Men B](#), and the post-immunisation sheet, [What to expect after immunisation: Babies and children up to 5 years](#). In addition, the SIRS letter is being amended to include a reminder for parents to collect infant paracetamol prior to their child's MenB immunisation. This text will appear on all letters and not just those specific to MenB.

Childhood flu vaccine supplies

Since 2013 the preferred product for children has been Live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) available in the UK as Fluenz Tetra®. This vaccine has a short shelf life and expiry dates of supplied stock expire at the end of December. Practices should attempt to use their existing stock as soon as possible.

Due to a potential shortage of vaccine the pharmaceutically identical FluMist®, manufactured for the US market, has been made available if required and the [PGD](#) has been updated accordingly. To ensure timely supply, changes in the supply schedule were required. This has resulted in a mismatch between the actual expiry date and that printed on the packaging and labelling. The two batches of FluMist® Quadrivalent being supplied (**FL2113 & FL2118**) **must not be used after the 24th February 2016**.

Norovirus and the *Stay at Home* publicity campaign

There has been an increase in the levels of Norovirus reported to HPS by NHS Boards. NHS HealthScotland has developed a [Stay at Home](#) campaign toolkit including posters, leaflets, digital banner ads and infographics for websites which can all be downloaded and used by organisations

Further information on Norovirus including link to the Top Tips for Preventing Infection and Norovirus Guidance and tools can also be found on the [HPS website](#)



Change to seasonal flu vaccine procurement in 2016/17

There will be a change to flu vaccine procurement for the 2016/17 seasonal flu programme. An expert group, established in 2015, has reviewed the procurement process and concluded that the best option is the central procurement of flu vaccine supply with direct distribution of vaccine to GPs via a centrally contracted logistics company. Health Boards would be given the option of holding a small volume of the vaccine locally at Vaccine Holding Centres for contingency reasons. More information from the Scottish Government will be available in due course.

If you would like to comment on any aspect of this newsletter please contact Marie Laurie on 0141 201 4917 or email marie.laurie@ggc.scot.nhs.uk