

PHPU Newsletter

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[PHPU Website](#) [PHPU Newsletters](#)

New – FAQ in Immunisation

The PHPU's Health Protection Nurse team has compiled a list of the most [frequently asked questions](#) about immunisation. The list covers a wide range of areas and there are links to relevant Guidance and current recommendations. Staff who can't find an answer to their query in the list or in the recommended links should email phpu@ggc.scot.nhs.uk or, if urgent, call on 201 4917.

PGDs

It is the responsibility of the professional working under a Patient Group Direction (PGD) to ensure that they have signed the most up-to-date copy. This is a list of current vaccine PGDs in use in NHSGGC primary care. Please note that a PGD should be authorised under local governance arrangements for an HSCP or clinical area before use.

Staff who have any queries are asked to contact [Pharmacy Public Health](#)

| NHSGGC PGDs for the Childhood and National Immunisation Programme at October 2017 | | | |
|---|--------|----------------|--------------------|
| Vaccine ¹ | Expiry | Version | Programme |
| Pediacel/Infanrix IPV+Hib² | Mar-18 | 7 | Childhood/National |
| Boostrix | Apr-18 | 5 | Childhood/National |
| Revaxis | Jul-18 | 6 | Childhood/National |
| Hib Men C | Jul-18 | 6 | Childhood/National |
| Fluenz | Jul-18 | 8 | Influenza |
| Influenza IM | Jul-18 | 16 | Influenza |
| Repevax-Infanrix | Sep-18 | 7 | Childhood/National |
| PPV23 | Sep-18 | 7 | Childhood/National |
| MMR | Nov-18 | 8 | Childhood/National |
| Gardasil HPV | Nov-18 | 5 | Childhood/National |
| Rotavirus | Jan-19 | 4 | Childhood/National |
| Men B (Bexsero) | Jan-19 | 3 | Childhood/National |
| Men ACWY | Mar-19 | 6 | Childhood/National |
| Paracetamol for immunisation | May-19 | 2 | Childhood/National |
| PCV | May-19 | 7 | Childhood/National |
| Infanrix-Hexa | Aug-19 | 8 ³ | Childhood/National |
| Hep B paediatric | Aug-19 | 8 | Childhood/National |
| Zostavax | Oct-19 | 5 | Childhood/National |

1. This list shows vaccine PGDs for Childhood and National programmes. It does not include vaccine PGDs which may have been developed for specialist clinics e.g. travel, sexual health, tuberculosis.

2. This PGD is to be withdrawn as it has been superseded by Infanrix Hexa.

3. Version number reflects previous Pediacel/ Infanrix IPV+Hib PGD iterations

Flu vaccine uptake in clinical risk groups – support for GPs

In 2014/15, a small pilot project demonstrated to practices the usefulness of undertaking a self-audit exercise of seasonal flu immunisation procedures. This year, practices that had low uptake rates in clinical at-risk groups in the 2015/16 flu season have been encouraged to complete the self-audit. On completion they receive a personalised summary feedback report, including key result areas and recommendations based on their responses. Practices are asked to share this report with relevant key stakeholders, including their local community pharmacies, to encourage advocacy of immunisation for relevant patients. Currently more than half of the practices invited have already responded, and the Public Health Pharmacy thanks them for their support and co operation with this initiative.

Practices should contact frances.notman@ggc.scot.nhs.uk for more information about this initiative.

Systemic anti-cancer therapy (SACT) and vaccinations

Colleagues working in Primary Care are reminded of the guidance, developed by NHS GG&C Specialist Oncology and Haemato-oncology services, governing vaccination in patients receiving Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy (SACT), which includes chemotherapy and the newer immunotherapies.

Seasonal influenza vaccine

There are a few patient groups in whom seasonal influenza vaccination cannot be given - see links to tables below:-

[Seasonal Influenza Vaccination for patients receiving haemopoietic SACT](#)

[Seasonal Influenza vaccination for patients receiving non-haemopoietic SACT](#)

Zoster vaccine

Recent guidance has been issued for Shingles vaccination in those aged > 70yrs. Generally speaking, this vaccine is contraindicated in immunocompromised patients. See [NES Guidance](#) (page 6).

Zostavax® is contraindicated in lymphoma, acute and chronic leukaemia, all patients receiving immune suppressive chemotherapy, biological therapies and radiotherapy, including high dose steroids (equivalent of 40 mg Prednisolone per day for more than 1 week) for at least 3 months. Such patients should be **at least 6 months after the end of treatment** and documented to be in remission before receiving this vaccine. (See [SPC](#) for more details).

Please note that the [Zoster Vaccine Screening Tool](#) should be used for **all** patients prior to vaccination.

Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine

The [PPV SPC](#) advises the following under the section Posology, Special Dosing:

It is recommended that pneumococcal vaccine should preferably be given at least two weeks before elective splenectomy or the initiation of chemotherapy or other immunosuppressive treatment. **Vaccination during chemotherapy or radiation therapy should be avoided.**

Following completion of chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy for neoplastic disease, immune responses to vaccination may remain diminished. **The vaccine should not be administered any sooner than three months after completion of such therapy.** A longer delay may be appropriate for patients who have received intensive or prolonged treatment.

Supplies update – Hep A, B and Revaxis® vaccines

There are ongoing problems with supply of Hepatitis A and B vaccines. Advice has already been issued on preservation of the stock of these vaccines and the alternative vaccines which can be used. Practice staff seeking guidance should contact the [PHPU](#) team who will undertake a risk assessment and authorise supply of vaccine from PDC, if deemed appropriate.

Supplies of Revaxis® have now returned to normal.

Bottled water and infant formula feeds

In general, the use of bottled water to make up infant formula feeds is discouraged, as the water may have excessively high mineral levels, and there is potential for confusion around sterilisation requirements.

In some rare circumstances however, e.g., during investigation of possible lead pipework, or other water quality failure, Scottish Water will issue households with bottled water to use temporarily. The mineral levels in the bottled water supplied by Scottish Water are within the recommended limits for infants, and during times when tap water should not be used for public health reasons, the supplied bottled water can be used to make up infant formula feeds. **This advice applies only to the bottled water supplied by Scottish Water, and not to bottled water from other sources.**

As bottled water is not usually sterile, it will still need to be boiled, like tap water, before preparing the feed. It should be used at a temperature of at least 70°C to make up a feed, and cooled before you give it to the baby.

Please contact [PHPU](#) if you have any queries about the use of bottled water.

PHE guidance on use of antiviral agents for seasonal flu 2017

The latest [Public Health England Guidance](#) on the use of antiviral agents for treatment/prophylaxis of seasonal flu has been approved for use in Scotland by the Scottish Health Protection Network. The guidance should be used in conjunction with the [SHPN addendum](#).

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