

**Central Midlands (Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire)**

**Screening and Immunisation Team Update**

**W/C 17th December 2018**

**Please cascade to ALL staff, including GPs, Practice Nurses, Admin and Reception Staff**

**Immunisation Information**

* **Flu vaccine supply – for information and action**

As you are no doubt aware, following what has been a very difficult flu vaccination season for many, we have been working in conjunction with CCGs to reallocate excess flu vaccine (both aTIV and QIV) between practices to ensure any patients who request a vaccine are able to obtain one. We know practices are anxious not to be left with any surplus vaccine but, before returning to the pharmaceutical company we request that you contact your CCG, or your local screening and immunisation co-ordinator, as we may know of practices that are still short. Thank you for your support with this.

* **Pertussis vaccination for travellers to Australia – for information**

Travellers visiting e.g. newly born grandchildren in Australia sometimes present requesting whooping cough vaccination. In the UK only children of less than 10 years of age and pregnant women are eligible to receive NHS pertussis immunisation, as per the current schedule. Everyone else must seek this from a private source. Practices are unable to offer this as a private service, and should not prescribe it, since there are clear NHS indications.

* **Rotavirus – for information**

A recent review of the Rotavirus vaccination programme has shown several given outside the approved age range. The search showed some clear anomalies – particularly, as might be expected, when the programme was first introduced, and also some coding issues.

Rotarix should be routinely be given at 8 weeks and 12 weeks of age. It is preferable that the full course of two doses of Rotarix® be completed before 16 weeks of age, allowing at least four weeks between the first and second dose. This is to provide early protection and avoid temporal association between vaccination and intussusception.

The age criteria for babies who are eligible for Rotarix is:

* The minimum age for the first dose of rotavirus vaccine is 6 weeks 0 days
* The maximum age for the first dose is 14 weeks and 6 days
* Infants who have received their first dose by 14 weeks and 6 days can then have their second dose a minimum of 4 weeks later up to the age of 23 weeks and 6 days. This is the maximum age for the second dose.
* **PPV vaccine supply – for information and action**

ImmForm have confirmed that there is no PPV stock and advised us to tell practices to keep checking the ImmForm news page frequently and vaccine updates for when stock becomes available (please note PPV is not orderable via ImmForm). In addition the following statement was included in the following November Vaccine Update –

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/759287/VU_288_November_2018.pdf>)

Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine (PPV)

MSD is introducing a limited quantity of a prefilled syringe presentation (PFS) of PPV under the brand name PNEUMOVAX® 23 to supplement the current supply of vials from December 2018. A combination of growing global demand for pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccines, alongside manufacturing constraints, have led to regular interruptions in supply of PPV to the UK since 2017. The introduction of a PFS presentation of PPV is intended to support the continuity of supply and to help address public health need.

Pneumovax® 23 in the PFS presentation can be ordered in the same way as the PPV in vials; through MSD’s distribution partner AAH online or by phone on 0344 561 8899. Customers need an AAH account to place an order. For more information about the vaccine, please refer to the Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC).

* **PGDs –** for information

**PCV13:** An updated version of the routine PCV13 PGD should be available for us to adopt for local use in good time for the expiry of the current version (plus extension) on 31st January - it’s at the final stages of the PHE PGD development process.

The **MenB** and **MenACWY** PGDs for risk indications are now being reviewed and updated. At the same time, the **routine** **MenB** PGD is being amended - because Bexsero® is no longer a Black Triangle drug.

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**Screening Information**

* **Cervical Screening**

**HPV Primary Screening implementation** - for information

A definite start date for the implementation of HPV Primary Screening in each county has yet to be finally agreed. When a start date is confirmed we will write out to all stakeholders involved in the cervical screening programme, so do look out for further communication on this subject next year.

**PCSE new online form** - for information

Please see the attached communication about the new PCSE online form for cervical screening enquiries. The newly revised Cease/Reinstate/Defer forms are available on the PCSE website via the link below. The forms will be included in the appendix of the revised national ceasing guidance which is due to be published in early 2019. <https://pcse.england.nhs.uk/services/cervical-screening/screening-for-gps-and-nurses/>



* **Screening e-learning for GPs - for information**

The Royal College of GPs (RCGP) has recently published new e-learning content, in conjunction with PHE Screening, that gives GP and primary care colleagues practical guidance to support patients in understanding and accessing NHS screening programmes, please see the PHE Blog via the link below: <https://phescreening.blog.gov.uk/2018/11/23/new-screening-e-learning-content-published-for-gps/>

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**Screening and Immunisation Team – where to direct your queries**

General immunisation queries and any problems with immunisation payments and claims can be directed to england.llimms@nhs.net and PGDs can be found on our website <https://www.england.nhs.uk/mids-east/info-professionals/ll-immunisation/>.

**General enquiries to** –

Louise Fergusson on 0113 824 9515 / 07568 431900

Louise.fergusson@nhs.net

Or

Vanessa Robinson on 0113 825 3495 / 07714 772645

Vanessa.robinson3@nhs.net

**Health Protection Team Contact Details**

The PHE Health Protection Team now operates an Acute Response Centre (ARC). To contact them dial 03442254524 – option 1 and they will answer any immediate immunisation queries.