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Dear Colleague

**MENINGOCOCCAL ACWY (MEN ACWY) VACCINATION
PROGRAMME: UNIVERSITY FRESHERS AND
ADOLESCENTS AGED 14-18.**

1. We are writing to correct important omissions in CMO letter SGHD/CMO(2015)10 regarding eligibility for Men ACWY vaccination.

2. **Annex A** (in particular paragraphs 11 and 12) to this letter provides a corrected summary of eligibility for Men ACWY vaccination, and should replace the eligibility information provided in the previous CMO letter.

3. The key amendments to note are:

- Addition of young people who were 18 years of age at the start of the programme (1 August 2015) with DOB: 2 August 1996 – 28 February 1997.
- Clarification that vaccine eligibility applies to whole birth cohorts for school years and is not restricted to those leaving school this summer (2015).

4. All other information within SGHD/CMO(2015)10 is unaffected and remains correct and is available at: [http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/cmo/CMO\(2015\)10.pdf](http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/cmo/CMO(2015)10.pdf). The Men ACWY DES has been reissued to include the above revisions and is available at:

[http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/pca/PCA2015\(M\)05revised.pdf](http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/pca/PCA2015(M)05revised.pdf)

5. Please accept our apologies for any confusion caused in relation to this already very complex programme.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Calderwood
Chief Medical Officer

Fiona McQueen
Chief Nursing Officer

Rose Marie Parr
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

From the Chief Medical Officer
Chief Nursing Officer
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer
Dr Catherine Calderwood
Professor Fiona McQueen
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SGHD/CMO(2015)15

For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards
Medical Directors, NHS Boards
Nurse Directors, NHS Boards
Directors of Public Health, NHS Boards
Directors of Pharmacy, NHS Boards
General Practitioners
Practice Nurses
Immunisation Co-ordinators
CPHMs

For information

Chairs, NHS Boards
Infectious Disease Consultants
Consultant Paediatricians
Consultant Physicians
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TIMING AND ELIGIBILITY OF MEN ACWY VACCINATION

Timing

Freshers Programme

1. The freshers Men ACWY programme will commence from 1 August 2015 and will be delivered by General Practices. It is important that eligible university entrants including overseas students receive the vaccination at least 2 weeks before they attend university (whenever possible) to ensure a full immune response.
2. Where students are not vaccinated before leaving for university they can register with a new GP Practice once they arrive and arrange to get the vaccine there as soon as possible, ideally in freshers' week to give maximum protection, and no later than 31 March 2016.
3. The freshers vaccination programme was introduced in 2014 as a time-limited programme that would run until 2017 when the 2013 cohort of S3 pupils will reach university age. Due to the introduction of the Men ACWY vaccine, and all 14-18 year olds being vaccinated over the course of this financial year, this will be the final year of the freshers programme.
4. From 2016/17 onwards the Men ACWY vaccine will only be given to S3 pupils by NHS Boards through schools.

Catch-up programme for 14-18 year olds

5. The Men ACWY catch-up programme for 14-18 year olds will commence from 1 August 2015.
6. It will be delivered in two phases over this financial year (2015/16). Phase one will run from 1 August – 31 March 2016 and be delivered by General Practices **only**. Phase two will run from 1 January – 31 March 2016 and will be delivered by **both** NHS Boards and General Practices.

Eligibility

Freshers Programme

7. Freshers should now be offered the Men ACWY vaccine in place of the Men C vaccine.
8. Eligible patients are those under 25 and attending university for the first time in Autumn 2015.
9. GP Practices will not be required to identify or contact eligible patients, with the emphasis being for first time university students under the age of 25 to request the vaccination.

Catch-up programme for 14-18 year olds

10. The JCVI has recommended the vaccination of all adolescents aged 14-18 years of age with Men ACWY vaccine as soon as possible. In order to deliver the catch up element of the programme, both NHS Boards and GP Practices will be involved.

11. From 1 August 2015 to 31 March 2016 GP Practices will be responsible for vaccinating the following cohorts of school leavers. To give maximum protection these cohorts should ideally be vaccinated before 31 October 2015 and no later than 31 March 2016:

- **18 year olds** – vaccinate those born between **2 August 1996 – 28 February 1997**. This cohort are advised to contact their GP Practice to make arrangements to receive the vaccination.
- **17/18 year olds (2014/15 S6 cohort, DOB: 1 March 1997 – 28 February 1998)** – vaccinate all S6s who leave school this summer (2015). In addition, vaccinate those who are of S6 age but who left school in previous years. A Scottish Government funded central letter will invite the patient to contact their GP practice to be vaccinated
- **16/17 year olds (2014/15 S5 cohort, DOB: 1 March 1998 – 28 February 1999) school leavers only** - vaccinate S5s who leave school this summer (2015) and do not go into S6. In addition, vaccinate those who are of S5 age but who left school in previous years. A Scottish Government funded central letter will invite **those who have left school** to contact their GP practice to be vaccinated. **Those who return to school** will be vaccinated in school during the 2015/16 academic year.
- **15/16 year olds (2014/15 S4 cohort, DOB: 1 March 1999 – 29 February 2000) school leavers only** - vaccinate S4s who leave school this summer (2015) and do not go into S5. This will be supported by a Scottish Government funded central letter as per paragraph 12 below.

12. From 1 January to 31 March 2016 GP Practices will be responsible for vaccinating the following cohorts:

- **16/17 year olds (2015/16 S5 Christmas leavers (the 2014/15 S4s), DOB: 1 March 1999 – 29 February 2000)** - vaccinate S5s who leave school at Christmas 2015. A Scottish Government funded central letter will invite **those who have left school** to contact their GP practice to be vaccinated. **Those who return to school** will be vaccinated in school during the 2015/16 academic year.

13. From 1 January to 31 March 2016 NHS Boards (in schools) will be responsible for vaccinating the following cohorts:

- **2015/16 S6s (2014/15 S5s)**
- **2015/16 S5s (2014/15 S4s)**
- **2015/16 S4s (2014/15 S3s)**
- **2015/16 S3s - routine cohort (2014/15 S2s)**