

Dear Colleague

## **Meningitis B (Men B) infant vaccination programme**

### **DIRECTED ENHANCED SERVICE**

#### **Summary**

1. This Circular provides guidance to NHS Boards and GP Practices on the Meningitis B (Men B) vaccination programme for infants.
2. This circular also gives Directions to Health Boards on behalf of Scottish Ministers detailing the payment arrangements, **Annex A**, which must be made under the DES.
3. CMO letter SGHD/CMO (2015) 11 [http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/cmo/CMO\(2015\)11.pdf](http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/cmo/CMO(2015)11.pdf) was issued on 10 July 2015 and contains clinical arrangements for the Men B programme.

#### **Background**

4. The Men B vaccine will be introduced into the routine childhood vaccination programme from 1 September 2015. All infants aged 2 months on/from this date (i.e those born from 1 July 2015) will be offered the Men B vaccine at 2, 4 and 12 months.
5. The vaccine will be administered at the same time as the other routine vaccinations received by infants at 2, 4 and 12 months.
6. There will also be a one-off catch up for infants aged 3 and 4 months at the start of the programme who will be attending for their routine vaccination appointments at these times. As an indicator infants in the catch up cohort will have been born between 1 May 2015 and 30 June 2015. Infants born before 1 May 2015 will not be eligible to receive the Men B vaccine.



**The Scottish  
Government**  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

24 July 2015

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#### **Addresses**

##### For Action

Chief Executives NHS Boards

GP Practices

NHS National Services Scotland

##### For information

Scottish General Practitioners  
Committee

Primary Care Leads NHS Boards

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#### **Enquiries to:**

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## **Timing**

7. The programme will commence from 1 September 2015.
8. Vaccinations will take place when infants reach 2, 4 and 12 months and will be done at the same time as the other vaccinations infants receive at these ages.
9. In principle there should be no need for additional visits, and existing call and recall mechanisms will also deal with MenB call and recall.
- 10.

## **One-off Catch up**

11. There will be a one-off catch up for those born on/after 1 May 2015 who will be aged 3 and 4 months at the beginning of the programme.
12. 3 month olds (those attending for their routine 3 month appointment) will receive a dose at 3 months, 4 months and 12 months with their other childhood vaccinations at these times.
13. 4 month olds (those attending for their routine 4 month appointment) will receive a dose at 4 months and 12 months, again with their other childhood vaccinations at these times.

## **Paracetamol**

14. Infants will require three doses of paracetamol following routine vaccinations at 2 and 4 months. The small number of infants getting the Men B vaccine as part of the one-off catch-up this year will also need three doses of paracetamol following routine vaccinations at 3 and 4 months:
  - The first dose of paracetamol should be given by the GP Practice at the same time as the vaccinations
  - A prescription should be written for the subsequent two doses of paracetamol.

## **Reporting arrangements**

15. Apart from monitoring uptake for payment purposes, it is important to provide timely data in the interest of patient safety, particularly in situations where the vaccination could be offered in more than one setting.

## **Claims for payments**

16. Practitioner Services Division will agree separate guidance with SGPC regarding claims including claim forms that will be provided to practices.

17. Vaccine supplies should only be used for eligible children under the national programme, and no payment will be made where any patient is vaccinated outwith the national programme.

**Action**

18. NHS Boards are requested to action this guidance and ensure that their primary medical services contractors are aware of it.

**Enquiries**

19. In the instance of any enquiries on this circular please contact Frank McGregor.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'FM', written over a horizontal dashed line.

Deputy Director, Primary Care Division

### Payment Arrangements – Directions to Health Boards

1. The Scottish Ministers give the following directions to Health Boards. Contractors who have entered into an arrangement with a Health Board as part of that Health Board's Childhood Immunisation Scheme will be reimbursed in accordance with the paragraphs below.
2. Contractors providing the Men B vaccination will be reimbursed from 1 September 2015
3. In recognition that this programme starts on a Tuesday (1<sup>st</sup> September) where GP Practices routinely hold infant vaccination clinics on a Monday, children attending on 31 August 2015 for their 2, 3 and 4 month routine vaccination appointments, and born on/after 1 May 2015 can be offered the Men B vaccine. Payment will be made in this instance.
4. Payments applicable to GMS contracts for Men B:
  - A flat rate of £7.67 will be paid per immunisation
  - An additional fee of £2.12 will be paid per immunisation to recognise the urgency of implementation, delivery of the new programme, additional workload and short lead in time that this will mean for GP Practices.
5. As previously notified SGHSCD is meeting the vaccine purchase costs associated with this programme and **NHS Boards are meeting the delivery costs, including GP costs, from their baseline resources.**

### Payment Verification

6. Prior to issuing payments in accordance with the above, Health Boards must require contractors and providers who have entered into an arrangement with a Health Board's Meningitis B vaccination programme in terms of the DES Directions 2015 to sign a declaration to confirm that they are meeting the requirements of the DES Directions 2015.