

Dear Colleague

**Pertussis immunisation programme for pregnant and post-natal women**

**DIRECTED ENHANCED SERVICE**

**Summary**

1. This Circular provides guidance to NHS Boards and GP Practices on the Pertussis immunisation programme for pregnant and post-natal women (“the Target groups”).
2. This guidance is to be read with the NHS circular [PCA2015\(M\)07](#) which introduced the Primary Medical Services (Directed Enhanced Services) Directions 2015 (“the DES Directions 2015”) and was issued on 24 July 2015. This guidance makes new provision in relation to the Target Groups to allow vaccination to be offered from week 16 onwards.
3. This Circular provides specific details of the Pertussis immunisation for pregnant and post-natal women Directed Enhanced Service (DES), as agreed with the Scottish General Practitioners Committee (SGPC).
4. This new Pertussis DES, reflects advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) to amend existing arrangements to allow women from 16 weeks gestation to be given the vaccine.



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

22 April 2016

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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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## Change from 1 April 2016

5. The key change is that the existing arrangements are to be extended to allow women from 16 weeks gestation to be given the opportunity to receive the vaccine. This had previously only been available for women from 28-32 weeks gestation.

## Target groups (See Green Book Chapter – Pertussis: chapter 24)

6. For pertussis, contractors will be expected to offer immunisation to the following groups, and direction **10(2)(a)(i)(aa)** of the DES Directions 2015 is now to be read as follows:
  - a pregnant woman from 16 weeks onwards, with the optimal time in the period weeks 16 to 32 inclusive, and with a gap of at least one month between any previous immunisation against pertussis, diphtheria, tetanus and/or polio, and this dose;
7. Direction **10(2)(a)(i)(bb)** (32 weeks until the onset of labour) and **10(2)(a)(i)(cc)** (new mothers who have never previously been vaccinated against pertussis, as soon as possible after birth and until the child receives their first pertussis vaccination) remain the same as in the current DES Directions 2015.

## Timing

8. The pertussis immunisation for pregnant and post-natal women programme can be given at any time in the year.

## Reporting arrangements

9. 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. GP practices will be required to provide Health Boards with immunisation data and will continue to collect data on the changes in pertussis epidemiology, by age.

## Claims for Payments

10. Practitioner Services Division will provide separate guidance regarding claims including claim forms.

## Action

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

## Enquiries

12. In the instance for any enquiries on this circular please contact Iain Eddyshaw.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light yellow background. The signature reads "Richard Foggo" in a cursive style, with a small flourish at the end.

Richard Foggo  
Deputy Director, Primary Care Division

**Payment Verification**

13. Payment arrangements will remain at the same level as previously annotated in the [Pertussis DES circular](#) issued 29 January 2014.
14. 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 Pertussis Scheme in terms of the DES Directions 2015 to sign a declaration to confirm that they are meeting the requirements of the DES Directions 2015.