

Population Health Directorate
Primary Care Division



Addresses

For Action

Chief Executives NHS Boards
Chief Officers for Health and Social Care Partnerships
GP Practices
NHS National Services Scotland

For information

Scottish General Practitioners Committee
Primary Care Leads NHS Boards

Policy Enquiries to:

Michael Taylor
Primary Medical Services
1 Rear
St Andrew's House Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Tel: 0131-244 5483

Michael.Taylor@gov.scot

10 August 2017

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. This guidance replaces [NHS circular PCA\(M\)\(2016\)10](#).
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](#) was issued on 10 July 2015 and contains clinical arrangements for the Men B vaccination programme.

Background and Timing

4. The Men B vaccine was introduced into the routine childhood vaccination programme on 1 September 2015.
5. The vaccine should be administered at the same time as the other routine vaccinations received by infants at 2, 4 and twelve months of age.

Paracetamol

6. Infants require 3 doses of paracetamol following vaccination with Men B at 2 and 4 months of age.

7. The primary route for parents acquiring paracetamol for infants is through Community Pharmacy.
8. GP Practices have the option of providing the paracetamol if they prefer to do so. In these instances, the first dose should be given by the GP Practice at the same time as the vaccinations.

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.

Claims for payments

10. Practitioner Services Division will agree separate guidance with SGPC regarding claims including claim forms that will be provided to practices.
11. 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

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

Enquiries

13. In the instance of any enquiries on this circular please contact Michael Taylor.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Richard Foggo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and a long tail on the 'o'.

Richard Foggo

Deputy Director and Head of Primary Care Division

Annex A

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 2017.
3. 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 continue to be paid per immunisation to recognise the additional work entailed in delivering the programme.
4. 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

5. 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 2017 to sign a declaration to confirm that they are meeting the requirements of the DES Directions 2017.