

Immunisation Programme Updates

Changes to the HPV Programme

The [bipartite letter](#) has recently been published outlining changes to the HPV programme from 1 September 2023.

One dose of HPV vaccine has been shown to be as effective as two at providing protection from HPV infection, so only one dose will be required by teenagers and GBMSM **aged up to 25** to be fully protected. Those who have already received one dose of the vaccine prior to September 2023 will be considered fully vaccinated. GBMSM aged 25 to 45 will still require two doses and those living with HIV or known to be immunocompromised will still require three doses.

To support these changes the [HPV Green Book chapter \(18a\)](#) and [Healthcare Professional guidance](#) have been updated.

Updated patient information and consent materials, training slide sets, and PGDs will follow in due course.

All programme materials can be accessed from the main [universal programme page](#) once published.

A [special edition of Vaccine Update](#) has also recently been published relating to these changes.

Incomplete Vaccination Schedule Updated

The [Vaccination of Individuals with Uncertain or Incomplete Immunisation](#) document has recently been updated.

The notable changes include:

Where children have not received the Hepatitis B or HiB components as part of their childhood immunisations, monovalent Hepatitis B or HiB/MenC vaccination should be offered.

If an individual has received oral polio vaccine (OPV) in another country since April 2016, these should be discounted. However, if they have also received the appropriate number of doses of inactivated polio virus vaccine (IPV) for their age then no further doses are required.

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5-minute update – Issue 44 – July 2023

Contact: england.hiow-SIT@nhs.net

Changes to the Shingles Programme

The [Shingrix bipartite letter](#) detailing the changes to the programme from 1 September 2023 has now been published.

The [Shingles Green Book chapter 28a](#) has been updated and the healthcare practitioner guidance and a training slide set to support the Shingrix programme is available here: [Shingles vaccination guidance for healthcare practitioners webpage](#). E-learning for the shingles programme has also been updated and is available here: [NHSE elfh Hub \(e-lfh.org.uk\)](https://www.nhse.uk/elfh).

Updated patient information materials will be available on the [Shingles vaccination programme webpage](#) and some are now available to order from the [Health Publications website](#). Currently available information materials to order include a [Shingles Vaccination Checklist](#), a [Shingles Vaccination Guide](#), [Shingles Leaflet](#), Shingles postcards ([here](#) and [here](#)), [Shingles stickers](#), [Shingles record card](#), a [full programme poster](#) and a [quick guide poster](#).

The updated Shingrix® PGD template will be available later in July and this will be circulated to practices once it has gone through the NHS England sign off processes.

A [Shingles Special Vaccine Update](#) has also been published to support the programme changes. An UKHSA webinar detailing the upcoming changes is also available [here](#).

Shingrix and aQIV

Please note that based on recent evidence from the United States, guidance has changed and **Shingrix can now be given at the same time as adjuvanted quadrivalent Influenza vaccine (aQIV)**. Both the [Shingles Green Book chapter](#) and [Shingles Healthcare Practitioner guidance](#) have been updated to reflect this.

MMR Eligibility in Adults

The decision on when to vaccinate older adults needs to take into consideration the past vaccination history, the likelihood of an individual remaining susceptible and the future risk of exposure and disease.

Practices are not required to call/recall adults with missing MMR. It is an opportunistic offer or on request (this includes on assessment for travel).

Please refer to the Green Book for further guidance on vaccination of adults born in the UK.

[Green Book of Immunisation - Chapter 21 Measles \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) (page 10)

Pneumococcal Programme Support

Support for practices for the pneumococcal (PPV23) programme has been offered by MSD, the manufacturers of the vaccine. If practices want to take up this opportunity and arrange a practice visit then please contact jane.aylen@msd.com. Additionally MSD, have produced some support materials for the programme which can be accessed here: [Training and resources | PNEUMOVAX® 23 \(pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine\) | MSD Connect](#)

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Vaccine Supply Information for the 2023 to 2024 Children's Flu Programme

All flu vaccines for the 2023/24 children's flu programme will be available via ImmForm.

It is anticipated that ordering for both vaccines will open in early September, but this may be subject to change.

As in previous seasons, ordering controls will be in place for general practices, to enable UKHSA to balance supply with demand. These controls work by allocating an amount of LAIV based on the number of registered eligible patients and are tailored to each practice.

UKHSA expects to be able to accommodate the following, however at this time, this information remains subject to change:

- Each GP practice will initially be allocated sufficient LAIV to vaccinate at least 50% of their eligible patients (all 2 and 3-year-olds, plus children in clinical risk groups from age 4 to <18 years) when ordering commences.
- Increases to these allocations may be made in response to demand and vaccine availability.

Requests for extra vaccine will be considered on a case-by-case basis throughout the ordering period. Requests for additional vaccine should be sent to the helpdesk (helpdesk@immform.org.uk) and should be sent in good time before your order cut-off. Out of schedule deliveries will be by exception only.

Please note that GP practices or groups that operate over multiple sites but are part of the same organisation will have a joint allocation (as in previous years), even where each site has a unique ImmForm account. This means that it is possible for one site to potentially order all of the available vaccine for the group, unless there is local agreement on how the allocated volume is shared. UKHSA recommend that this agreement is in place before ordering opens to reduce the risk of supply interruption. The information above allows practices to estimate the amount of vaccine they will be initially allocated, and how it should be split between all sites.

The Cell Based Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine (Surface Antigen, Inactivated) (QIVc) will be available to order, **in a single dose pack**, for:

- Children in clinical risk groups aged from six months to less than 2 years old
- Children aged from 2 to <18 years old in clinical risk groups for whom LAIV is clinically contraindicated or otherwise unsuitable
- Healthy children from 2 years old to those in school year 11, for whom LAIV is unsuitable (for example, due to objection to LAIV on the grounds of its porcine gelatine content)

For GPs, there will be an initial cap of 10 doses/packs per week

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New FutureNHS Workspace for all Vaccination and Screening providers

NHS England has launched the new [Vaccination and Screening FutureNHS workspace](#). The workspace houses content created by NHS England to support vaccination and screening providers, including datasets, guidance, communications materials and shared learning. All vaccination and screening providers with an nhs.net or other recognised healthcare or government email address can join the workspace. More content will be uploaded in the coming weeks - [sign up to receive a weekly summary of all uploads to the workspace](#).

Immunisation Resources

MMR

We are constantly working to increase the uptake of MMR vaccinations – please find a link to the MMR leaflets for your use and information to continue to promote the vaccination [here](#).

The MMR for all leaflet is available to order as a paper copy in English and translated versions of this leaflet are available free to order in the following languages: [Bengali](#), [Polish](#), [Romanian](#), [Somali](#), [Ukrainian](#) and [Yoruba](#)

Vaccine Update

The latest editions of Vaccine Update can be found here:

[Vaccine update: issue 340, July 2023, shingles special edition - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Vaccine update: issue 339, June 2023, HPV special edition - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Vaccine update: issue 338, May 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Previous editions can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/vaccine-update>

Updated PGDs

Please note the link to the PGD website has changed to [NHS England — South East » Patient Group Directions \(PGDs\)](#).

PGD downloads are available here: [NHS England — South East » South East Patient Group Direction downloads](#)

Recently updated PGDs:

[Rotavirus PGD \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)

Subscribe to keep up to date with national immunisation news:

Vaccine Update: [Vaccine update - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Screening Programme Updates

BOWEL

Lynch Syndrome Patients

You will have received information from our team regarding the inclusion of Lynch Syndrome in the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme (BCSP) from July 2023. This is a gentle reminder that GPs do not need to refer patients with Lynch syndrome into the NHS BCSP for colonoscopic surveillance but should continue to refer individuals to local genetics services for Lynch syndrome care and management. Any questions please do contact us at england.hiow-sit@nhs.net.

Learning Disability Patients

The Southern Bowel Cancer Screening Hub has written to all Southern GP practices to request a list of patients with a confirmed Learning Disability diagnosis aged between 50 and 74. This is to allow these patients to be flagged on the Bowel Screening IT system meaning they are automatically sent an easy read letter and leaflet when they are invited for screening. This is sent alongside their standard invitation letter. The flag is also available to screening centres should any subject move onto further tests so reasonable adjustments can be made. If you have not provided this information to the Bowel Screening Hub, please can you contact rsc-tr.BCSPSouthernhub@nhs.net who will advise on the steps you need to take.

CERVICAL

Guide for Sample Takers and GP Admin Staff on How to Check Screening Eligibility and Next Test Due Dates on Open Exeter

The sample taker is responsible for making sure a person is eligible for cervical screening and due a test and should not routinely contact the laboratory or colposcopy for this information. Please see the attached guide for sample takers and GP admin staff on how to check screening eligibility and next test due dates on Open Exeter.

CSMS

The new Cervical Screening Management System is still on track to be introduced at the end of this year. If you would like to find out more about the system in development information is available at [New NHS Cervical Screening Management System - NHS Digital](#)

Rejected Samples

To avoid your sample being rejected please remember to be vigilant about:

- Sufficient and correct patient information on both the vial and form – **this includes the patient first and last name, their date of birth and either their NHS number or address.**
Please ensure information on the vial and form match
- Checking that your patient is due their routine screening on Open Exeter. Please be careful as GP IT systems “pop-ups” may incorrectly identify patients for screening
- Expiry date on the vial (there should be at least 14 days between taking the sample and the expiry date).

If a sample is rejected and has to be repeated there must be a **3 month gap** between the date the rejected sample was taken and the repeat sample.

Cytology Sample Bags

Berkshire & Surrey Pathology Services are currently scoping a bag tracking solution for cervical screening samples as set out in the contract held with NHS England.

This will enable them to trace any samples that are sent to the laboratory but not received. A tracking solution will help them determine where in their journey they were mislaid and increase the likelihood of locating them. This should improve result outcomes for patients and the overall efficiency of the service.

The first step in this project is to ensure that all HPV Cytology samples are always sent to them in a **green plastic “Cytology HPV Samples Only”** bags which are available to you via CellPath (they should be included in your Thinprep kits). This is because it is these green plastic bags that will be tracked.

Even if you only have one sample to send, this should be placed in an individual sample bag (to protect the request form in the event of sample leakage) which in turn should be placed in one of the green plastic bags.

BSPS acknowledge that these are single use bags, and this procedure will increase the overall use of plastic but they are in the process of arranging for all HPV plastic to be re-cycled in order to minimise any impact on the environment.

BSPS are therefore asking for your assistance to make sure that, henceforth, all HPV Cytology samples are transported in green plastic “Cytology HPV Samples Only” bags. Once they have full compliance, they can progress the rest of the tracking project which should improve efficiency for all service users.

If you have any questions, please contact the HPV helpdesk on asp-tr.bsps HPV@nhs.net or call 01932 726622

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Cervical Sample Taker Update Training

If your update training is due to expire or is out of date, you will receive emails from BSPS. If your training record is not updated following these reminders, BSPS will record you as inactive on the sample taker database.

This means that if you submit a sample as an inactive sample taker, it will not be processed until the appropriate information about your training has been received. This can result in delays for the patient.

Please make sure you are doing your update training on time and uploading evidence to the CSTD.

“No Correspondence”

A recent incident occurred whereby results were sent to a patient’s home address in error.

If the patient does not want their results to be sent to their home address, please ensure that the request forms clearly state **no correspondence to current address** and provide alternative address to use e.g. practice address

Taking Time

We have had several queries about how much time should be allocated for screening appointments.

Though there is no definitive guidance the appointment length should be sufficient for the sample taker

- to review the patient’s history,
- explain the procedure and the possible results,
- gain informed consent, along with answering any questions the patient has,
- taking and processing the sample.

The time allocated may vary according to experience but we would suggest 15 – 20 mins. **Trainee sample takers** should be allocated 30 minutes per appointment.

Reminder: HPV Vaccination Information Open Exeter

Manual upload of HPV records to Open Exeter/NHAIS are to cease as of Monday 21 August 2023. Please ensure any HPV vaccines given in practice to females aged 18 and over have been uploaded prior to this date.

Open Exeter

If you need to contact Open Exeter regarding account access the contact details are:

pcse.openexeter@nhs.net

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Contacting Us

The screening and immunisation team work from home, so are not able to access post or an office landline telephone number.

If any documents need to be shared, can they be scanned and sent to england.hiow-sit@nhs.net. Please DO NOT include Patient Identifiable Information.

The generic email remains the quickest and most effective way to reach the team

england.hiow-sit@nhs.net.

Useful Contact Details

Covid-19 Vaccination	Please contact: hiowicb-hsi.vaccination.operations@nhs.net
Travel Vaccinations	Please contact NaTHNaC: http://www.nathnac.org/ 0845 602 6712
Vaccinations Outside the Routine Schedule e.g. Hep A, Hep B for adults, rabies	Please contact the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Health Protection Team Tel: 0344 225 3861 Email: SE.AcuteResponse@ukhsa.gov.uk
Specialist Clinical Advice for Immunisation of Individual Cases	Please contact the patient's consultant/medical team
BSPS	For all operational queries related to cervical samples e.g. kits, sample pots, bags etc please contact the BSPS helpdesk at asp-tr.bspshpv@nhs.net or 01932 726622
Cervical Sample Taker Database	For any queries, please contact the Laboratory IT support at asp-tr.bspssampletakers@nhs.net All sample takers can log in once your practice manager has added you onto the database at https://cstd.asph.nhs.uk/ Practice managers should use https://cstd.asph.nhs.uk/admin/ to access the database.
Cervical Screening Call/Recall Queries	Including ceasing patients from screening, managing PNLs and queries related to cervical screening histories including next test due dates need to be directed to the Cervical Screening Administration Service https://www.csas.nhs.uk/ Please note that the Screening and Immunisation team do not have access to patient level data.
Open Exeter Access	Please contact the Open Exeter Service Desk here: pcse.openexeter@nhs.net is 0333 014 2884
Contracting and Payment Queries	Please contact: england.htvphcontracting@nhs.net