

29 August 2014

Dear Colleague

**Meningococcal C (Men C)
Catch-Up Programme – First Time University Entrants**

DIRECTED ENHANCED SERVICE

Summary

1. This Circular provides guidance to NHS Boards and GP Practices on the Meningococcal C (MenC) Immunisation Scheme.
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 \(2014\) 11](#) was issued on 17 June 2014 and contains clinical arrangements for the Men C catch-up programme.

Background

4. The programme for first-time university entrants under the age of 25 is being introduced from 1 August 2014. This will be a time-limited catch-up programme that will run until the first cohort of S3 pupils, who received the adolescent booster dose of Men C in 2013, reach university age (2017).
5. This new Men C DES, reflects advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) to improve the overall level of protection against vaccine-preventable diseases.
6. The JCVI considers prospective students entering university as being at an increased risk of Men C disease as these students are more likely to stay in halls of residence and/or have more close contact with new students during freshers' week.

Addresses

For Action

Chief Executives NHS Boards

GP Practices

NHS National Services Scotland

For information

Scottish General Practitioners
Committee

Primary Care Leads NHS Boards

Enquiries to:

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7. From 2017 onwards university entrants will have received a dose of Men C vaccine routinely as part of their adolescent booster vaccines.

8. This circular provides specific details of the Men C Directed Enhanced Service (DES), including funding and payment arrangements, as agreed with the Scottish General Practitioners Committee (SGPC).

Eligibility

1. Eligible patients are those under the age of 25 and attending university for the first time this Autumn who have not previously had any Men C vaccination since the age of 10.
2. Prospective students who have previously received a dose of Men C vaccine at the age of 10 years and over do not require an additional dose as they will still be protected.

Timing

1. 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 and no later than 31 October 2014.
2. If an individual seeks vaccination later than 31 October 2014 then GP Practices should apply clinical judgement to assess the benefits of the vaccine at that point.

Reporting arrangements

1. 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

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

Action

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

Enquiries

4. In the instance for any enquiries on this circular please contact Frank McGregor

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'D' followed by a horizontal line that ends in a small upward tick. The signature is positioned above a horizontal dashed line.

Deputy Director, Primary Care Division

Payment Arrangements – Directions to Health Boards

The Scottish Ministers give the following Directions to Health Boards.

1. Contractors who have entered into an arrangement with a Health Board as part of that Health Board's Meningococcal C Men Immunisation Scheme will be reimbursed in accordance with the paragraphs below.
2. Contractors providing the Meningococcal C vaccination will be reimbursed, from date, 1 July 2014.
3. Payments applicable to GMS contracts for Meningococcal C
 - a flat rate of £7.67 will be paid per immunisation

Payment Verification

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 Meningococcal C Immunisation Scheme in terms of the DES Directions 2014 to sign a declaration to confirm that they are meeting the requirements of the DES Directions 2014.