

Contents

- Cold chain incidents
- Viral haemorrhagic fever
- Immunisation seminars
- Men C catch-up for students
- Men B – Bexsero® vaccine
- Shingles vaccine – template letter for GPs
- Immunisation calls – new procedure
- Staff flu vaccination programme 2014

Revised recommendations on the intervals between administration of live vaccines

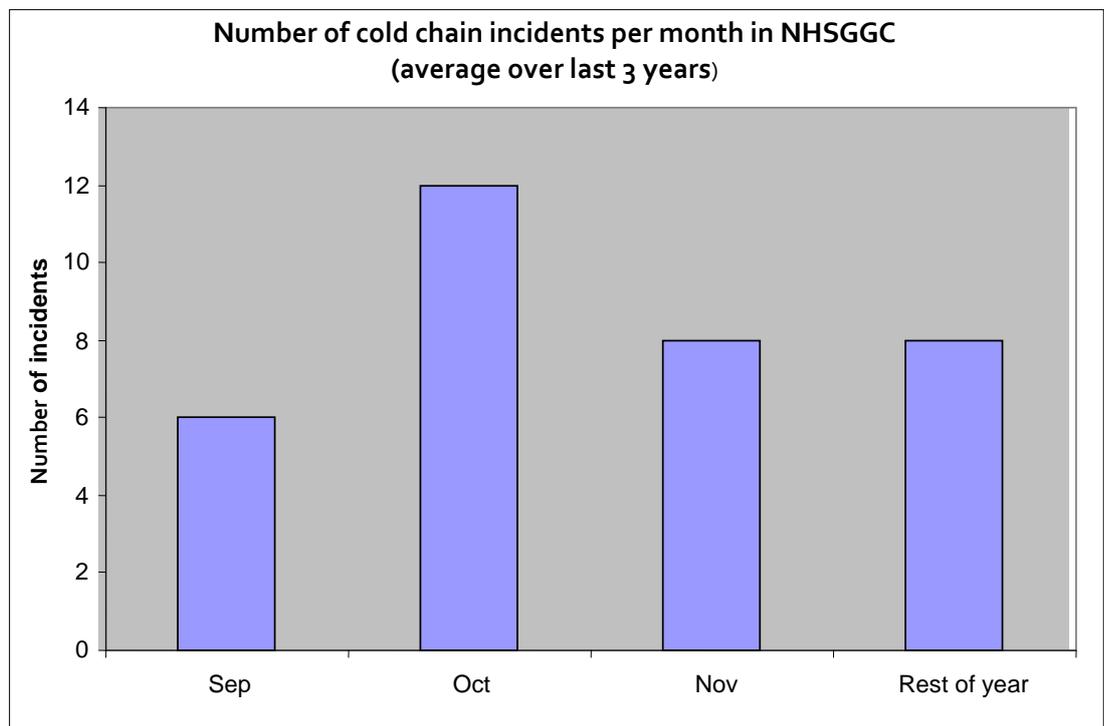
PHPU Newsletter

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Cold chain incidents

As the influenza vaccination season starts, practice fridges are full with flu and shingles vaccine so perhaps it's not surprising that there are more vaccine cold chain incidents reported in October than at any other time (see graph below). This year has been particularly busy and, unfortunately, in a single week six practices reported fridge incidents involving the expensive vaccine Zostavax®. As Christmas approaches, staff arrangements may result in changes to normal responsibilities and as many staff as possible are encouraged to undertake the LearnPro Cold Chain training module <http://nhs.learnpro.uk.com> (click on More Learning and the module is listed under the 'Pharmacy' tab).



Practices have been working hard throughout the year to prevent cold chain incidents by purchasing new pharmaceutical fridges.

Practices can also help prevent incidents or reduce the amount of vaccine loss by:

- making one person responsible for ordering and managing vaccine stocks
- reviewing orders before submitting to PDC
 - only order vaccine for one or two weeks' supply
 - consider historical uptake
 - consider weekly delivery
 - discuss large orders needed for special clinics with PDC (0141 347 8974) e.g., extended flu programme for children and Zostavax for elderly
- ensuring fridge space is sufficient for increased vaccine storage requirements
- ensuring all staff understand the importance of maintaining cold chain especially those not routinely involved with vaccines

Repevax® Stocks

NB: Earlier this year Boostrix IPV® replaced Repevax® for pregnant women. To avoid wastage any remaining stocks of Repevax® can be used for pre-school booster and is included in the [PGD](#)

Viral haemorrhagic fever (VHF) - guidance for GPs

Information and resources for GPs is available on the [NHSGGC Ebola](#) portal. The [management of suspected VHF patients in primary care](#) and the [viral haemorrhagic fever \(VHF\) algorithm](#) produced by Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens have recently been updated. HPS has also produced [leaflets for primary care staff and posters for primary healthcare settings](#).

Immunisation Seminars 2014 - now online

The PHPU Immunisation Seminars in August/September were fully booked and the PHPU would like to thank all those who attended. Please note that those who were unable to attend can view the presentation [on line](#)

Men C catch-up for students - excess vaccine

A catch-up Men C vaccination programme for first-time university entrants under the age of 25 was introduced on 1st August 2014. Please note that any remaining supplies of Men C vaccine should be used for the routine childhood programme to avoid wastage.

Men B - Bexsero[®] vaccine

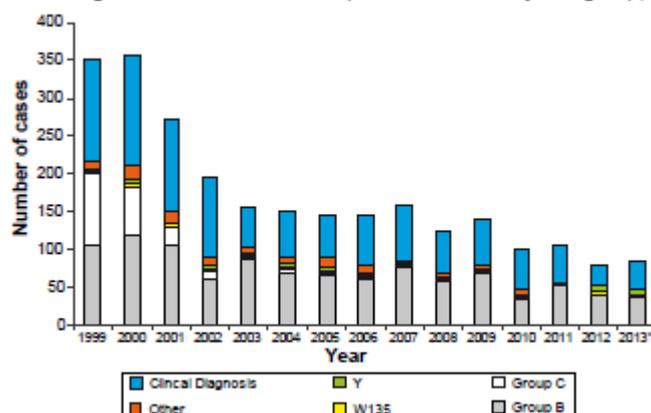
Bexsero[®] vaccine is a licensed vaccine for meningococcal B infection, and a procurement process is underway to purchase enough vaccine for the childhood programme at a cost effective price. Health Boards are awaiting an announcement from the Scottish Government about a start date for the childhood programme, as yet there is no plan for an adolescent programme.

NB: GPs should be giving Bexsero[®] *now* to those with splenic dysfunction, asplenia and complement disorder

How to obtain the vaccine

Bexsero[®] should be obtained for patients by a GP10 prescription presented to community pharmacy. Pharmacies have been informed that while the vaccine is not available from their wholesalers they may order it from Novartis directly on the company's vaccine order line (08457 451 500). Orders placed before 1pm will be delivered on the next working day.

FIGURE 3: Meningococcal disease cases reported to MIDAS by serogroup, 1999-2013*



*2013 data provisional

Shingles vaccine - template letter for GPs

Practices should note that the final version of the GP template letter for downloading can be found by following the link: <http://www.healthscotland.com/shingles>

Immunisation calls to PHPU - new procedure

Immunisation staff should note that all *immunisation* enquiries to the PHPU should now be emailed if a response is required within 24 hours. A telephone response from the Health Protection Nurse may take up to 48 hours.

The address for emailed enquiries is PHPU@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

The management of non-immunisation enquiries remains unchanged.

NHS staff flu immunisation programme

NHS staff should note that although the flu vaccination 'drop-in' programme has ended there is still opportunity to be vaccinated by way of peer immunisation. Clinical staff who missed the staff vaccination clinics should contact PeerImmunisationBooking@ggc.scot.nhs.uk for more info. Alternatively, flu vaccination by appointment is still available from Occupational Health until **March 2015**.

If you would like to comment on any aspect of this newsletter please contact Marie Laurie on 0141 201 4917 or email marie.laurie@ggc.scot.nhs.uk