

Dear Colleague

Meningococcal ACWY (Men ACWY) Vaccination Programme: university freshers and catch-up for 14-18 year olds

DIRECTED ENHANCED SERVICE

Summary

1. This Circular provides guidance to NHS Boards and GP Practices on the Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY) vaccination programme for university freshers and all 14-18 year olds.
2. This guidance replaces the NHS circular PCA(M)(2014) 10 issued last year for the freshers Men C vaccination programme.
3. 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.
4. This Circular provides specific details of the Men ACWY Directed Enhanced Service (DES) including funding and payment arrangements, as agreed with the Scottish General Practitioners Committee (SGPC).
5. CMO letter SGHD/CMO (2015) 10 [http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/cmo/CMO\(2015\)10.pdf](http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/cmo/CMO(2015)10.pdf) was issued on 2015 and contains clinical arrangements for the Men ACWY freshers and adolescent Men ACWY catch-up programmes.



24 July 2015

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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Background

6. The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) met on 4 February 2015 to consider the most recent epidemiological evidence in relation to an increasing number of cases of Meningitis W (Men W) in the UK. The Committee advised that the replacement of Men C vaccine with Men ACWY vaccine for the adolescents and freshers' vaccination programmes was likely to be beneficial in controlling invasive Men W disease and against Men C. The JCVI recommended that the replacement should be implemented from academic year 15/16. The Committee also recommended that a catch-up programme for all 14 to 18 year olds using Men ACWY vaccine should also be offered as quickly as possible.
7. There will be two aspects to the programme in 2015-2016.
 - Freshers Programme
 - Catch-up programme for 14-18 year olds

Changes from 1 August 2015

Freshers Programme

8. The freshers Men ACWY programme will commence from 1 August 2015 and will be delivered by General Practices.
9. 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 to give maximum protection and no later than 31 March 2016.
10. The freshers vaccination programme was introduced in 2014 as a time-limited programme that would run until 2017 when the 2013 cohort of S3 pupils will reach university age. Due to the introduction of the Men ACWY vaccine, and all 14-18 year olds being vaccinated over the course of this financial year, this will be the final year of the freshers programme. From 2016/17 onwards the Men ACWY vaccine will only be given to S3 pupils by NHS Boards through schools.

Catch-up programme for 14-18 year olds

11. The catch-up programme for 14-18 year olds will commence from 1 August 2015.
12. It will be delivered in two phases over this financial year (2015/16). Phase one will run from 1 August 2015 - 31 March 2016 and be delivered by general practices only. Phase two will run from 1 January 2016 – 31 March 2016 and will be delivered by **both** NHS Boards and General Practices.

Eligibility

Freshers Programme

13. Eligible patients are those under 25 and attending university for the first time in autumn 2015.
14. Freshers should now be offered the Men ACWY vaccine in place of the Men C vaccine.
15. GP Practices will not be required to identify or contact eligible patients, with the emphasis being for first time university students under the age of 25 to request the vaccination.

Catch-up programme for 14-18 year olds

16. The JVCI has advised vaccination of all adolescents aged 14-18 years of age (S3 – S6 in Scotland) with Men ACWY vaccine as soon as possible. In order to deliver the catch up element of the programme, both NHS Boards and GP Practices will be involved.

17. From 1 August 2015 to 31 March 2016 GP Practices will be responsible for vaccinating the following cohorts. To give maximum protection these cohorts should ideally be vaccinated before 31 October 2015 and no later than 31 March 2016:

- **2014/15 S6s (all)** – vaccinate all S6s who leave school this summer (2015). A Scottish Government funded central letter will invite the patient to contact their GP practice to be vaccinated. (an estimated 60,000 pupils across Scotland)
- **2014/15 S5s school leavers only** - vaccinate S5s who leave school this summer (2015) and do not go into S6 (an estimated 13,000 pupils across Scotland). This will be supported with a Scottish Government funded central letter.
- **2014/15 S4s school leavers only** - vaccinate S4's who leave school this summer (2015) and do not go into S5 (an estimated 7000 pupils across Scotland)

18. From 1 January to 31 March 2016 GP Practices will be responsible for vaccinating the following cohorts:

- **2015/16 S5 Christmas leavers (2014/15 S4s)** - vaccinate S5s who leave school at Christmas 2015 (an estimated 5,000 pupils across Scotland). This will be supported with a Scottish Government funded central letter.

19. From 1 January to 31 March 2016 NHS Boards (in schools) will be responsible for vaccinating the following cohorts:

- **2014/15 S5s (2015/16 S6s)**
- **2014/15 S4s (2015/16 S5s)**

- 2014/15 S3s (2015/16 S4s)
- 2014/15 S2s (2015/16 S3s - routine cohort)

Reporting arrangements

20. Apart from monitoring uptake for payment purposes, it is important to provide timely data to PSD and Health Boards in the interest of patient safety, particularly in situations where the vaccination could be offered in more than one setting.

Claims for Payments

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

22. Any necessary variation for local circumstances, outwith the arrangements under the national programme, should be agreed between NHS Boards and Local Medical Committees (LMCs).

Vaccine supplies should only be used for those eligible under the national programme,

Action

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

Enquiries

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

Yours sincerely



Deputy Director, Primary Care Division

Payment Arrangements – Directions to Health Boards

25. 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 Men ACWY vaccination programme will be reimbursed in accordance with the paragraphs below.
- Contractors providing the Men ACWY vaccination will be reimbursed from 1 August 2015 to 31 March 2016.
- Payments applicable to GMS contracts for Meningococcal ACWY
 - a flat rate of £7.67 will be paid per immunisation
 - an additional fee of £2.12 will be paid per immunisation to recognise the urgency of implementation, delivery of the new programme and additional workload and short lead in time that this will mean for GP Practices.

Payment Verification

26. 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 Men ACWY vaccination programme in terms of the DES Directions 2015 to sign a declaration to confirm that they are meeting the requirements of the DES Directions 2015.