Final notice
The Movianto UK website will close to all orders for childhood vaccines on 31 October 2010 after which all online orders will need to be made on ImmForm – see page 3 for full details.

Immunisation news

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)
New guidance has been issued on Synagis® (Palivizumab) prophylaxis to protect infants at risk of serious RSV infection.

RSV is a common cause of respiratory tract infection occurring in the UK within the period from October to March each year with most infections occurring in a relatively short epidemic of about six weeks. RSV causes bronchiolitis in infants which is usually mild but can be severe in infants who are at increased risk of lower respiratory tract infection.

Based on evidence evaluated by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), Synagis® is recommended for certain groups of infants with particular medical conditions. The guidance is described in a letter from the Director of Immunisation at the Department of Health (see web link 1), in a JCVI statement (see web link 2) and a new chapter on RSV in Immunisation against infectious disease (the Green Book) (see web link 3). As the recommendations on the use of Synagis® are complex, an Excel tool has been produced to help guide decision making (see web link 4).

Synagis® supplies can be obtained in England, Wales and Scotland from Abbott UK (Tel: 01795580303) and in Northern Ireland from Movianto NI (Tel: 028 90 795799).

Call for evidence on meningococcal vaccinations
The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) meningococcal sub-committee will be considering a number of issues relating to meningococcal group B, C and ACWY vaccinations over the course of 2011.

To inform its considerations, the sub-committee welcomes submissions from interested parties of good quality scientific, medical, or economic evidence relevant to the issues under consideration. Submissions should reference peer-reviewed published material wherever possible.

For further information, including the issues under consideration, the data required and where to submit data, please go to the JCVI website (web link 5).

Submissions should be sent no later than 31 December 2010.
Resources

Green Book update
In addition to the new chapter on RSV as described above, the Pertussis chapter has recently been updated, see (web link 3).

Vaccine supply

Seasonal flu vaccine for poultry workers
The 2010/11 poultry workers' programme has started and vaccine is now available to order. Orders should be placed by PCTs, as in previous years, by emailing vaccine.supply@dh.gsi.gov.uk with the Movianto account number of the delivery point, the contact name at the delivery point and the contact at the PCT. Vaccine is available as single and ten dose packs.

Ordering H1N1 vaccine
Last year, each PCT nominated a person or persons who would be in charge of ordering H1N1 on behalf of local GPs. This system is still in place for ordering H1N1 vaccine for use during the seasonal flu season. Information on who should be offered flu vaccine is in the Chief Medical Officer letter issued 23 June 2010 (web link 6).

PCTs should order the vaccine on the ImmForm website (web link 7). If a nominated person is not already registered, they should email the vaccinesupplytechsupport@dh.gsi.gov.uk mailbox. Once registered, they will have a password to the website. The website lists all the GPs within the PCT area and their Movianto UK account numbers.

The minimum order is 200 doses (one pack) of Celvapan and 500 doses (one pack) of Pandemrix. All supplies of Celvapan date expire at the end of December. After this date, this vaccine brand will no longer be available.

Tetanus, diphtheria and polio (Td/IPV) vaccine
Revaxis is currently supplied by DH free of charge for use in the routine childhood immunisation programme as a teenage booster. If this vaccine is required for any purpose other than as a teenage booster, it should be purchased via the appropriate supply channel. For example, hospitals requiring it for use in patients or occupational health should use the framework agreement in place for this purpose. GPs or pharmacies requiring the vaccine as a travel vaccine or for patients going to reside abroad should purchase it directly from Sanofi Pasteur MSD. Orders may be placed on 0800 085 5511 or via email orders@spmsd.com

MMR vaccine
Please be aware that only the Priorix brand of MMR vaccine is available at the moment and is being issued with a relatively short expiry date. All the very short dated stock has now been issued and DH would like to thank you all for your understanding and cooperation with this. Stock being sent out now has an expiry date of Feb 2011.

To get Vaccine Update emailed direct to you, email vaccine.supply@dh.gsi.gov.uk
It is expected that by the end of April 2011, both brands of vaccine will be available with a six-month expiry date on them. There will be a period, however, around Feb/March 2011, when stock of MMRVaxpro will be sent out with three months expiry on it. Please accept our apologies for this but it is absolutely necessary in order to avoid wasting vaccine. Organisations are reminded that they should only order two to four weeks’ worth of stock at a time in order to prevent date expiry of stock.

Private customers wishing to purchase Priorix should contact GSK direct on 0808 100 9997.

**Delivery queries**

We are currently experiencing an increase in the number of routine queries regarding delivery dates for orders for childhood vaccines. Customers are reminded that if they are using ImmForm they can monitor their orders using the 'Order history' page on ImmForm. Customers not using ImmForm are encouraged to do so. Please see below for details on how to register for this service. In other cases, in the first instance, please call the Movianto customer care team on 01234 248632. Any other queries should be directed to vaccine.supply@dh.gsi.gov.uk

**Closure of the childhood vaccine ordering facility on the Movianto website**

Currently, customers can order childhood vaccines from two websites - the Movianto UK website (previously Farillon) and the DH ImmForm website. The Movianto UK website will close to all orders on 31 October 2010 after which all online orders will need to be made on ImmForm.

If you haven’t yet registered to order your childhood vaccines online, you can do so now at [web link 8].

It is recommended that vaccine orders are now placed solely on the ImmForm website. For any questions on registering with ImmForm please email immform@dh.gsi.gov.uk

If you are unsure which website you are currently using, the screenshots below show (in order):

To get Vaccine Update emailed direct to you, email vaccine.supply@dh.gsi.gov.uk
Delays in deliveries of seasonal influenza vaccine
The Department of Health has been made aware that there are ongoing delays to the delivery of some brands of seasonal flu vaccine. As a result, a letter from Professor David Salisbury was distributed to the field – see (web link 9).
Web links

Web link 1  www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_120382
Web link 2  www.dh.gov.uk/ab/JCVI/DH_094744?ssSourceSiteId=en
Web link 4  www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Immunisation/Keyvaccineinformation/DH_120246
Web link 5  www.dh.gov.uk/ab/JCVI/DH_120438
Web link 6  www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Professionalletters/Chiefmedicalofficerletters/DH_116507
Web link 7  www.immform.dh.gov.uk
Web link 8  www.vaccinesupply.dh.gov.uk/registration

Register now – feedback – contact us

To receive a copy of Vaccine Update emailed direct to you each month, to provide any comments or suggestions, or if you have a query about any aspect of vaccine supply, please email us at vaccine.supply@dh.gsi.gov.uk

This document has been authorised by the Department of Health: Gateway reference no: 14954