

OTHER VACCINATIONS

Introduction of Meningitis B immunisation for Infants

From 1 September 2015 immunisation against Meningococcal B disease will be added to the childhood immunisation programme.

It will be offered routinely to all babies born on or after 1 July 2015 when they attend for their first and third routine immunisations, at the age of 2 months and again at 4 months. A booster will also be offered at 12-13 months.

A limited catch-up programme for infants born between 1 May 2015 and 30 June 2015 will also be offered.

The introduction of Meningitis B immunisation will have an important role in reducing cases of Meningitis and Septicaemia and their complications in infants and provide reassurance to parents who are concerned about the devastating consequences of the disease.

There is an increased risk of fever when Meningitis B vaccine is administered so parents are advised they will need to give their infant paracetamol and should ensure that they have purchased an infant liquid paracetamol preparation beforehand. The nurse will advise further at the time of their appointment.

Introduction of Meningitis ACWY

This vaccination is being introduced into the national immunisation programme this year.

It will be offered in general practice as an urgent catch-up campaign for those that have just left school year 13. It will also be offered to anyone intending to go to university as part of the Fresher's Programme, up to the age of 25.

Other year groups will be offered at school through the adolescent schools programme as direct replacement for the Meningitis C vaccination.

It is likely that you had a Meningitis C vaccination as a child but immunity diminishes over time. You are more at risk of getting Meningitis just after starting university as you will be mixing closely with new people, some of whom may unknowingly carry the meningococcal bacteria, so you should get an injection before you go.

Shingles

We are now in the third year of the Shingles immunisation programme.

From 1 September 2015, patients who are 70 or 78 on 1 September 2015 can be offered the vaccination.

In addition, patients who were eligible for immunisation in the first 2 years of the programme but have not been vaccinated against Shingles remain eligible until their 80th birthday. These are patients aged 71 and 72 on 1 September 2015 and patients aged 79 On 1 September 2015.