HUMAN TETANUS IMMUNOGLOBULIN

Due to problems with the international supply of plasma, the availability of human tetanus immunoglobulin (TIG) for prophylaxis is currently extremely limited.

Tetanus immunoglobulin is recommended for the treatment of confirmed or possible cases of tetanus. In Scotland, SNBTS holds a reservoir of intramuscular TIG, which will be prioritised for emergency treatment of established tetanus until normal supply is restored.

Tetanus immunoglobulin is also recommended when an individual has a tetanus prone wound and is not up to date with their immunisations, in order to provide immediate protection. Until further notice:

- Human Normal Immunoglobulin (HNIG) for sub-cutaneous use (Subgam) may be administered for prophylaxis in an individual with a tetanus prone wound
- Human Normal Immunoglobulin (HNIG for intravenous use (Vigam) may be used as an alternative for treatment of clinical tetanus should specific TIG be unavailable

For further information please see:
- Green Book, Chapter 30—Tetanus. www.dh.gov.uk/greenbook

SHORTAGE OF RABIES VACCINE

There is currently a shortage of rabies vaccine worldwide due to production problems Sanofi Pasteur MSD (manufacturers of Rabies Vaccine BP) have had at their vaccine facility in France. Sanofi has limited vaccine available and is only supplying to standing order customers in order to conserve supplies and avoid going into an out of stock situation. They are not taking daily orders or accepting back orders. The other preparation licensed in the UK (Rabipur® – Novartis Vaccines) is still available but stocks are being monitored carefully. Novartis will only supply vaccine to those who set up an account with them (08457 451500). MASTA (Medical Advisory Service for Travellers Abroad) are a distributor for the Novartis rabies vaccine in the UK but are currently limiting distribution to MASTA Travel Clinics only. Both vaccines may be used interchangeably to provide protection pre- or post-exposure. Therefore, if a patient has already started a course of rabies vaccination with Rabies Vaccine BP, the course can be completed with Rabipur®.

This situation highlights the need to carry out a proper risk assessment prior to either pre- or post-exposure vaccine being prescribed, since inappropriate recommendation of rabies vaccine may put unnecessary strain on supplies. Please refer to the appropriate country page on TRAVAX or the vaccine information pages for further guidance.
VACCINE UPTAKE (1 January to 31 March 2008)

Primary vaccination rates at 24 months (% completed primary course) and % completed booster course by 24 months

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number in cohort</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>Pol</th>
<th>Hib</th>
<th>MenC</th>
<th>MMR1</th>
<th>Hib/MenC</th>
<th>PCVB</th>
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<tr>
<td>Highland</td>
<td>726</td>
<td>96.6</td>
<td>96.6</td>
<td>96.6</td>
<td>96.0</td>
<td>95.9</td>
<td>96.7</td>
<td>87.5</td>
<td>62.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 (H)</td>
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<td>95.7</td>
<td>95.7</td>
<td>95.7</td>
<td>95.0</td>
<td>95.0</td>
<td>96.1</td>
<td>86.4</td>
<td>59.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 (A&amp;B)</td>
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<td>98.9</td>
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<tr>
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<td>96.8</td>
<td>91.2</td>
<td>78.9</td>
<td>90.6</td>
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Pre-school vaccination rates at 5 years (Percentage uptake)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>% completed primary course at 5 years</th>
<th>% completed pre-school booster at 5 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number in cohort</td>
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<td>Highland</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 (H)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
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<td>98.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VACCINE UPTAKE

Uptake rates for Hib/MenC and PCV at 24 months are modest in comparison with other vaccinations, particularly in the South East, Mid and North CHPs, though the reason is not obvious.

Please ensure that the Child Health Department is notified promptly of all vaccines given.

HPV IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME

An e-electern is now available for those who were not able to attend one of the training sessions. It can be accessed at: [http://nhs-electern.nhsh.scot.nhs.uk/](http://nhs-electern.nhsh.scot.nhs.uk/) as long as you are on the NHSH system. Follow the instructions to register; this takes immediate effect. There is also a facility for emailing in questions.

The Health Protection Team are:

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Helen Tissington (Senior Health Protection Nurse Specialist)  
Lorraine McKee (Health Protection Nurse Specialist)

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Comments, feedback and suggestions all welcome.