



Briefing Note Template

Serial number: 2015/091

Date: 14 December 2015

Event Cessation of national supply of liquid infant paracetamol and oral dosing syringes for the MenB immunisation programme

Notified by Joanne Yarwood

Authorised by Mary Ramsay, Meng Khaw (Centre Director)

Contact immunisation@phe.gov.uk

PHE NIRP Level

Incident Lead Mary Ramsay

Background and Interpretation:

The MenB immunisation programme was introduced on the 1 September 2015 for babies born on or after 1 May 2015. Doses of MenB vaccine are routinely offered at 2 and 4 months of age and boosted at 12 months. Infants are more likely to have fever post immunisation when MenB vaccine is given with other routine vaccines. The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) recommended that when MenB vaccine is administered to children under the age of one year, three doses of prophylactic liquid infant paracetamol should be administered with the infant doses given at approximately two and four months.

To support and embed the use of prophylactic paracetamol into the MenB programme, temporary supplies of liquid infant paracetamol sachets (120mg/5ml) and oral dosing syringes were made available to order from central supplies via Immform. For all babies born since September 2015, parents should have received a range of literature that reminds them of the need to have their own supply of liquid infant paracetamol suspension (120mg/5ml) *before* their baby has the MenB vaccine aged 2 months.

The temporary supplies of paracetamol sachets are expected to have been fully distributed to immunisers by mid-December 2015. The central supply of paracetamol is therefore being phased out.

The existing PHE communication materials for both parents and healthcare workers that refer to the supply of liquid infant paracetamol sachets by immunisers are being updated and will be available to order in paper copy from late December and in electronic format from mid-December. These will make clear that parents will need to make arrangements to have infant paracetamol at home in time for their baby's first immunisation appointment. In order to allow the continued supply of any remaining stock of sachets, however, the paracetamol protocol (expiry date August 2017) will remain in place until further notice. This available via the web link below:



Implications for PHE Centres

Screening and Immunisation Teams and Health Protection Teams in local Centres may receive enquiries about the cessation of paracetamol supplies.

Implications for PHE sites and services

As above

Recommendations to PHE Centres

Screening and Immunisation Teams should communicate with local practices to ensure that they are aware of the temporary supplies ceasing and to remind them that

- parents who do not have their own supply of liquid infant paracetamol (120mg/5ml) at the time their baby is given the MenB immunisation, are reminded to purchase some on the way home (ideally within an hour of the immunisation) and
- parents are given the leaflet "Using paracetamol to prevent and treat fever after MenB vaccination" at the 2 month immunisation appointment. This leaflet provides detailed instructions on the use of paracetamol to prevent post immunisation fever based on both JCVI and CHM advice, which may still differ from the Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) supplied with infant paracetamol bought over the counter.

A template letter for SITs to use when communicating the above to general practices has been produced (see annex A) and can be adapted locally.

The information outlined above should be shared and any further enquiries sent to immunisation@phe.gov.uk

Recommendations to PHE sites and services

The information outlined above should be shared and any further enquiries sent to immunisation@phe.gov.uk

Implications and recommendations for local authorities

None

References/ Sources of information

Further information can be found at immunisation.gov.uk or contact us on immunisation@phe.gov.uk



Annex A: Template letter for communication with general practices

Dear Colleague,

The MenB immunisation programme was introduced on the 1 September 2015 for babies born on or after 1 May 2015. Doses of MenB vaccine are routinely offered at 2 and 4 months of age, with a booster at 12 months. Infants are more likely to have post immunisation fever when MenB vaccine is given with other routine vaccines. The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) recommended that when MenB vaccine is administered to children under the age of one year, three doses of prophylactic liquid infant paracetamol should be administered with the infant doses given at approximately two and four months.

To support and embed the use of prophylactic paracetamol into the MenB programme, temporary supplies of liquid infant paracetamol sachets (120mg/5ml) and oral dosing syringes were made available to order from central supplies via Immform. Supplied alongside the paracetamol sachets and syringes were leaflets titled "Using paracetamol to prevent and treat fever after MenB vaccination". This leaflet provides detailed instructions on the use of paracetamol to prevent post immunisation fever based on both JCVI and CHM advice, which may still differ from the Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) supplied with infant paracetamol bought over the counter.

For all babies born since September 2015, parents should have received a range of literature that reminds them of the need to have their own supply of liquid infant paracetamol suspension (120mg/5ml) before their baby has the MenB vaccine aged 2 months.

The temporary supplies of paracetamol sachets are expected to have been fully distributed to immunisers by mid-December 2015. The central supply of paracetamol is therefore being phased out. However, whilst parents should have a supply of infant paracetamol suspension at home, advice in the PIL may still differ from that recommended by JCVI and CHM and therefore it is important that parents are informed about the need for three prophylactic doses of paracetamol before they leave the practice. Therefore the updated version of the paracetamol leaflet "Using paracetamol to prevent and treat fever after MenB vaccination" can be ordered free of charge via the web link below from late December and should be provided to the parent following their baby's first dose of MenB vaccine. An electronic version of this leaflet will be available from mid-December and can be accessed on the same web page as the paracetamol protocol (see below).

https://www.orderline.dh.gov.uk/ecom_dh/public/home.jsf



Parents who do not have their own supply of liquid infant paracetamol (120mg/5ml) before their baby has MenB immunisation, should be reminded to purchase some on the way home (and give the first dose to their baby ideally within an hour of the immunisation).

As part of the MenB programme practices do not have to supply paracetamol sachets; many parents will already have infant paracetamol (120mg/5ml) or be prepared to buy it soon after leaving the practice. Whilst the practice still has a supply of paracetamol sachets, practice nurses can identify if a parent wants a single sachet to start the recommended course and if so, supply it with a syringe when they give the leaflet.

In order to allow the continued supply of any remaining stock of paracetamol sachets, the protocol (expiry date August 2017) will remain in place until further notice:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/menb-vaccine-and-paracetamol>