

Memo

To: All Health Care Professionals **From:** PGD Steering Group

Date: 11 December 2009

Re: **Amendment to Pandemic Influenza H1N1v Vaccine PGD – ref BPCT 001/32**

Pandemrix - Changes to dose for children aged over 6 months to under 10 Years Vaccination Programme Phase 2 – all children over 6 months and under 5 years

On 8 December the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) issued a statement confirming changes to the dose of Pandemrix for young children. A copy of the statement is attached.

Key recommendations:

- Pandemrix should continue to be the vaccine of choice for children and young people
- The dose for children aged over 6 months and below 10 years that are healthy or in the clinical at risk groups as previously defined should be given one dose of 0.25ml (i.e. half the normal adult dose)
- Children in this age group who are immunocompromised should continue to be given two doses at least 3 weeks apart
- Parents should be advised to look for signs of fever following H1N1v vaccination and treat if develops. Antipyretics should not be given as prophylaxis, in anticipation of fever since there is some evidence that this may make vaccines less effective.

PGD changes :

1. Page 4, section 'Dose/dose range/frequency'

Pandemrix®	
Children aged over 6 months to under 10 years (not immunocompromised)	One dose of 0.25ml (i.e. half the normal dose).
Children aged over 6 months to under 10 years who are immunocompromised	Two doses of 0.25ml (i.e. half the normal dose) given at least three weeks apart
Adults and children aged 10 years and above	Single injection of 0.5ml
Immunocompromised individuals aged 10 years and above	Two doses of 0.5ml given at least three weeks apart

There are no changes to the dose of Celvapan.

2. Page 2, section 'Inclusion criteria' – to add:
All Children over 6 months of age and under 5 years

For full details refer to

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Flu/Swineflu/InformationandGuidance/Vaccinationprogramme/index.htm>

JCVI updated advice on H1N1v vaccination
8 December 2009

Source -

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Flu/Swineflu/InformationandGuidance/index.htm>

The committee considered new advice from the European Medicines Agency¹ on the use of Pandemrix in young children based on data from the manufacturer showing a higher rate of fever in young children following a second dose. The committee also considered preliminary data on the reactogenicity of H1N1v vaccines from a paediatric trial coordinated by the Health Protection Agency.

The committee concluded that for children offered Pandemrix, one dose (that is half the adult dose) should be given to children aged over 6 months and below 10 Years that are healthy or in the clinical at risk groups as defined previously by the JCVI² with the exception of children who are immunocompromised. Immunocompromised children in this age group should receive two doses (both half the adult dose) of Pandemrix that are at least 3 weeks apart. Advice on the use of Pandemrix in children aged 10 years and above and adults remains that previously given by the committee.

Parents should be advised to look for signs of fever following H1N1v vaccination. Childhood antipyretics can be given to treat a fever should one develop. However, they should not be given before or shortly after vaccination in anticipation of a fever since there is some evidence that this may make vaccines less effective.

For further information refer to the Department of Health website or contact:

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Jacky Harrop, Chair of PGD Steering Group 020 7150 8027

¹ European Medicines Agency advises of risk of fever in young children following vaccination with Pandemrix
<http://www.emea.europa.eu/pdfs/general/direct/pr/78440409en.pdf>

² JCVI minutes 8th October 2009

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@ab/documents/digitalasset/dh_108833.pdf