



Leicestershire, Lincolnshire & Northamptonshire Screening & Immunisation Team

New entrants with incomplete or unknown immunisation history

These can be very tricky, not least because there may be language barriers... It is preferable to work from a written record of vaccinations given elsewhere – if one is available; if not, a pragmatic approach must be taken so that ongoing scheduling and monitoring of vaccine coverage can be maintained. *If you are in any doubt (e.g. parents uncertain or unclear documentation) that the child has been fully protected for their age as per the UK schedule, you should offer any vaccines you feel they may need to fully protect them: Green Book [chapter 11](#)*

Likely scenarios

If the parent can provide a copy of a vaccination record, and it's clear from this what antigens – and the number of doses of these – that the child has already received you can use the Vaccination of Individuals with Uncertain or Incomplete Immunisation Status [document](#) to work out what they've missed (and should therefore be given to bring them up to schedule).

- Make sure that any vaccines given elsewhere are recorded in the child's notes using an appropriate Read 2/CTV 3/SNOMED [code](#) and the date of administration is also recorded
- If you are not a SystemOne practice, make sure that your local Child Health team is provided with the details of which vaccines/ antigens the child has already received and on what dates so that the CHIS can be updated

If the parent has no written record (or clearly written record) you should firstly offer to administer all missing vaccines according the UK schedule/ the child's current age (again using the Uncertain or Incomplete Immunisation Status [document](#)). Explain that in the absence of a written record it is better to administer all the UK vaccines rather than risk their child being left unprotected from a disease that they may be exposed to in this country. The risk of not being vaccinated far outweighs the potential risks of repeating a dose - which are the same possible adverse effects of administering any vaccine.

If the parent insists that the child has received all their required vaccinations in their country of origin (and won't therefore consent to you 'starting again'), you should use one of the following tools to determine that country's schedule and identify what vaccines are needed to transfer them to and complete the UK schedule:

UK and International [Comparison Tool](#) (UK compared to the 20 countries from which most individuals enter the UK)

[ECDC immunisation tables](#) (Europe only)

[WHO immunisation tables](#) (all countries)

- You must use the schedules and the child's date of birth to work out the dates when these vaccines would have been given, had the schedule been followed as set out
- These vaccinations must then be recorded in the child's notes using an appropriate Read 2/CTV 3/[SNOMED code](#) – along with the dates you have worked out – so that further doses can be scheduled at the appropriate times
- If you are not a SystemOne practice, make sure that your local Child Health team is provided with the details of which vaccines/ antigens you have determined that the child is likely to have already received - and the dates you have worked out - so that the CHIS can be updated

Possible concerns

We know that this approach sometimes raises concerns, but this is a nationally required/ accepted means of ensuring that further vaccinations are not missed.

You have no proof of prior immunisation, only the parent's word: they are of course within their rights to refuse some/ all vaccinations – just make sure that they have been advised, as above, about the risk of disease and the possibility of vaccine intervals being incorrect resulting in sub-optimal protection (and that you note this in the child's records).

You feel uncomfortable inserting information about antigens and administration dates for which you have written no proof: make sure that you make it clear in a dated text entry why and how you have arrived at this information, i.e. parent's insistence, using the child's date of birth and one of the sources above (effectively referencing your work!); not adding this information risks the child not being called for further vaccines that they are due. The information is also required for vaccine coverage calculations.

The sources above list the current schedules – not necessarily the schedule at the time that the child was due their vaccination: most basic schedules are largely unchanging however you can only work with the information currently available and this is understood - but it's worth specifically recording the date that you accessed the source within the text entry (again, as per a reference!).

Translated materials

There are some translated materials, mostly only available to download, on the [PHE webpages](#) and [NHS Health Publications](#). Anything that is also available as printed copies can be ordered free of charge from the latter site. You will need to set up an account if you haven't already done so.

An alternative (and more comprehensive) source of information is [NHS Scotland](#) - bear in mind that some organisational aspects may be different

NHS England and NHS Improvement

