

South West Public Health

Section 7a Screening & Immunisations

Bulletin



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ICARS Newsletter 16.05.22

Please find this week's ICARS newsletter attached to this email.

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) Screening: A Reminder of Eligibility and Referral Processes

Across the South West we have been informed of some instances where women have been referred to the NHS AAA screening programme. The NHS offers an ultrasound scan to men during the screening year (1 April to 31 March) in which they turn 65. Men over the age of 65 can refer themselves for a scan if they have not had one. Should a AAA be found above the published threshold and classified as a small or medium aneurysm, the man would be placed under surveillance to see if the aneurysm increases in size. Men found to or who then develop a large aneurysm are offered a referral to vascular services.

Screening is not routinely offered to groups where there is a smaller risk of an AAA. These include men under the age of 65, women and anyone who has already been treated for an AAA.

It is important that GPs contact their respective NHS AAA Screening Programme for trans or non-binary people, so they are invited for screening correctly. Patients can then advise if they do not wish to attend.

Further information can be found at:

- [Abdominal aortic aneurysm screening - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

- [Abdominal aortic aneurysm screening pathway requirements specification - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/107222/abdominal_aortic_aneurysm_screening_pathway_requirements_specification.pdf)
- [NHS population screening: information for trans and non-binary people - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/107222/nhs_population_screening_information_for_trans_and_non-binary_people.pdf)

World Immunisation Week Information Resources

A range of content was produced following World Immunisation Week (24th to 30th April 2022) with the aim of reassuring and reminding parents about how important and safe routine immunisations are and to help them understand what vaccines are available to their child and when.

Please share these resources through as many channels as possible to reassure and encourage parents and carers to attend for childhood vaccinations with confidence.

Resources:

The WHO World Immunisation Week resources and guides are available [here](#)

Description	Link
A blog on childhood vaccinations explaining why they are crucial to child's health. The blog explores the impact of vaccines; how vaccines work; the childhood schedule; details of what each vaccine protects against and gives advice about who can be immunised and when, plus further information about why they are essential.	The blog can be accessed here: Childhood Vaccinations by UK Health Security Agency - Exposure
An easy to read graphic that summarises the childhood vaccination schedule	The graphic can be accessed here: UK Health Security Agency on Twitter: "It's important to make sure that your child has all their routine vaccinations when they're due. If you're unsure which vaccines they've had or if they're up to date then you should check their Red Book or contact your GP surgery to find out. #WorldImmunisationWeek #Vaccinations" / Twitter
A visual animation on the importance of routine vaccinations and the value that they have provided in protecting against serious disease	The animation can be accessed here: UK Health Security Agency on Twitter: "It's important to make sure your child has all their routine vaccinations when they're due. Check your child's vaccinations are up to date by checking their Red Book, or you can contact your GP surgery to arrange an appointment

	to catch up. #WorldImmunisationWeek #LongLifeForAll" / Twitter
A pre-prepared twitter thread providing answers to the most commonly asked questions about routine childhood immunisations	The thread can be read here: UK Health Security Agency on Twitter: "The arrival of a new baby is always a very busy time, with lots happening for parents and carers. The NHS vaccination schedule starts at 8 weeks. Read our thread on why it's important to get your child vaccinated & some commonly asked questions about childhood immunisations. 📖👉 https://t.co/BRmHKpBMBS" / Twitter
A Consultant Epidemiologist Dr Partho Roy explains the importance of childhood vaccines	The videos can be downloaded and viewed here: UK Health Security Agency - Partho Imms clips social LATEST 13:56 29/04/2022 (filemail.com)
A range of short videos have been created aimed at parents and carers of infants and children aged up to one year, at one year and aged three years and older. They explain which vaccines that will be offered for children in each of these age groups	The videos can be downloaded and viewed here: Mums, dads and carers of infants up to one year (vimeo.com) Mums, dads and carers of infants at one year (vimeo.com) Mums, dads and carers of children aged 3 years and older (vimeo.com)

SCID, BCG and rotavirus vaccination

The latest Vaccine Update [Vaccine update: Issue 327, May 2022 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) has a special focus on the introduction of Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) testing in to the Newborn Bloodspot programme and the associated changes to Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) and Rotavirus vaccination arrangements including:

- changes to the NHS neonatal BCG vaccination programme
- BCG vaccination training, advice and guidance for health professionals
- BCG information resources for parents
- BCG vaccination data flows and patient care pathways
- COVER programme vaccine coverage data collection
- SCID evaluation and rotavirus vaccination
- rotavirus vaccination training, advice and guidance for healthcare practitioners
- rotavirus vaccination resources for parents

Immunisers in GP practices should make reasonable efforts to ascertain the SCID screening outcome before administering rotavirus vaccine. This would involve checking for a record in the Red Book, the GP record, screening outcome information sent by CHIS, or with the parent

or caregiver. In the absence of an abnormal SCID screening result, or if no result can be found, rotavirus vaccination can go ahead. UKHSA have developed an algorithm to assist immunisers with this check [Rotavirus vaccine and SCID newborn screening evaluation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). Practices should include this algorithm in their local protocols.

Meningococcal awareness - 'Save a Life' campaign

As the summer terms gets underway for university students, it is important that they are reminded of the signs and symptoms of meningitis and septicaemia and that the MenACWY vaccine is available to them up until their 25th birthday.

The vaccine is very effective in preventing cases of Meningitis A,C,W and Y disease but does not protect against other types of meningitis, like MenB, so it is important to know the signs and how and when to seek help if someone is ill.

The UKHSA has produced a range of posters, [stickers](#) and other visual resources that can be downloaded or ordered via the [health publications website](#) to be used in education, recreation and student accommodation settings. We know that having these resources visible has already saved lives and we ask that these assets are shared widely and made as visible as possible to young people.

We have produced a [leaflet](#) that explains in more detail how to place your order for resources.

Further Information

- Back issues of these bulletins and attachments are available on the NHSEI website [here](#).
- If you have any questions or wish to provide feedback, please contact the Integrated Public Health Team at england.swscreeningandimms@nhs.net

NHS England and NHS Improvement
South West

