

South West Vaccination & Screening Team

Section 7a Bulletin


South West Collaborative
Commissioning Hub



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ICARS Newsletter

Please note the ICARS newsletter is now circulated fortnightly. The following issue will be included in next week's bulletin.

New PGDs Available for Hep A, Hep B and Hep A&B

This article relates to NHS vaccinations. Please share this information with appropriate staff in your practice

Your team can now download new Patient Group Directions (PGDs) that have been authorised for the vaccination of patients registered with NHS medical practices in the South West of England. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/south/info-professional/pgd/south-west/downloads/>

Before staff use this, your organisation should ensure that those members of staff have signed section 7, and that this has been counter-signed by an authorising manager.

Please note that PGDs can only be used as legal authorisation for administration or supply of prescription-only medicines by a [limited number](#) of registered health professions. Other staff that cannot prescribe will require a patient specific direction (guidance [here](#)).

Three new PGDs have been authorised for a range of registered healthcare professionals to use:

Hepatitis A Vaccine PGD v5.00 (AVAXIM[®], AVAXIM[®] Junior, Havrix[®] Monodose[®], Havrix[®] Junior Monodose[®], VAQTA[®] Adult, or VAQTA[®] Paediatric) – valid from 31st October 2023

For the administration of Hepatitis A virus (inactivated) vaccine (adsorbed), to individuals considered at high risk of exposure to hepatitis A or post exposure to hepatitis A virus in accordance with national recommendations. See Green Book ([Chapter 17](#)).

Changes from v4.00 include:

- new vaccine licensed for children 1 to 15 years old (Avaxim® Junior)
- phenylalanine content in Avaxim® Junior, Havrix® and Havrix® Junior Monodose®
- removal of the subcutaneous route being off-label for Havrix® Monodose and Havrix® Monodose Junior
- minor rewording, layout and formatting changes for clarity and consistency with other UKHSA PGD templates
- replacement of 'Public Health England' and 'PHE' with UKHSA, including updated contact details

**Hepatitis B Vaccine PGD v5.00 (Engerix B®, HBVAXPRO®, PreHevbri® or HEPLISAV B®)
– valid from 31st October 2023**

For the administration of Hepatitis B recombinant DNA (rDNA) vaccine (adsorbed) to individuals considered at increased risk of exposure to hepatitis B virus, at increased risk of complications of hepatitis B disease, or post potential exposure to hepatitis B virus. See Green Book ([Chapter 18](#)).

Changes from v4.00 include:

- individuals with incomplete primary vaccination against hepatitis B (since the change to the childhood immunisation programme in August 2017)
- particulars pertaining to 2 additional licensed Hep B vaccines (PreHevbri® and HEPLISAV B®)
- minor rewording, layout and formatting changes for clarity and consistency with other UKHSA PGD templates
- updated contact details for UKHSA

**Hepatitis A+B Vaccine PGD v4.00 (Ambirix®, Twinrix® Adult, and Twinrix® Paediatric)
– valid from 31st October 2023**

For the administration of combined hepatitis A virus (inactivated) and hepatitis B recombinant DNA (rDNA) (Hep A and B) vaccine (adsorbed) to individuals requiring protection against hepatitis A and hepatitis B virus in accordance with national recommendations.. See Green Book ([Chapter 17](#) and [Chapter 18](#)).

Changes from v3.00 include:

- potential for reduced antibody titers when co-administered with human normal immunoglobulin (HNIG) or hepatitis B immunoglobulin
- confirmation the vaccine cannot be used in post-exposure prophylaxis
- advice to maintain the same brand of combined hepatitis A and B throughout the primary vaccination course
- details of protection against hepatitis B not being fully conferred until after the second dose of Ambirix®
- minor rewording, layout and formatting changes for clarity and consistency with other UKHSA PGD templates
- replacement of 'Public Health England' and 'PHE' with UKHSA, including updated contact details

The Diabetic Eye Screening Transport Booking Service User Checklist

Please find the following two documents attached:

- The Diabetic Eye Screening Transport Booking Service User Checklist
- The Rockwood Frailty Scale visual guide.

The purpose of these documents is to support you when determining whether a Diabetic Eye Screening service user (including Residential / Nursing home residents) can safely attend a Diabetic Eye Screening appointment.

In summary,

- service users who are either a 1, 2 or 3 in the Rockwood scale can attend without any additional support,
- those service users who would be classed as a 4, 5 6 or 7 on the Rockwood scale will need additional support and we would suggest that you contact your local Diabetic Eye Screening provider to ensure that the service can meet their needs appropriately, and,
- service users who are 8 or 9 on this scale are most likely not suitable for Diabetic Eye Screening, however, we would advise that you discuss this with their Diabetic Eye Screening provider and other health professions involved in their care.

Further Information

If you have any questions or wish to provide feedback, please contact the SW Vaccination and Screening Team at england.swvast@nhs.net. Back issues of these bulletins and attachments are available on the NHS England website [here](#). **Please note that if there are no items for your information a GP Bulletin will not be circulated.**