

National Immunisation NEWS

The newsletter of the National Immunisation Office
National Directorate of Population Health



2006: Issue 2

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Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Flu Vaccine Campaign 2006/7

This season's flu vaccine has arrived into Ireland and is being distributed through the National Cold Chain Service (Cahill May Roberts). As last year you will receive at least half your quota by the 9th October. All sites will receive an additional delivery two weeks later and a further one two weeks after this. This year three vaccines will be in use:

<i>Product Name (Company)</i>
Influvac (Solvay)
Begrivac (Wyeth)
Agrippal (Novartis)

Please **ensure that you remove and return all "last season's" flu vaccine** from your fridge before delivery of the new vaccine.

Information posters and leaflets are widely available and if you have not received them please contact your Local Health Office.



Flu Media Campaign

The National Influenza Media Campaign will commence on Monday 16th October and run until Wednesday 25th October 2006. Radio and press advertisements will be run nationally and regionally during these dates.

"Don't forget as health professionals, you too, need to be protected - so get the vaccine not the flu"

Pneumococcal Vaccine

Pneumococcal vaccine should also be given to patients over 65 years of age who have not previously received the vaccine. This can be given at the same time as the flu vaccine. Re-vaccination is not generally recommended within five years of a dose of polysaccharide pneumococcal vaccine unless clinically indicated. This vaccine is also available through the National Cold Chain Service.

Introduction of routine Hib booster

Any child born between 1st November 2001 and 17th September 2005 should have received a Hib booster as part of the “Hib catch up” booster campaign.

From September 18th 2006 the Hib booster vaccine has been added to the routine childhood vaccine schedule

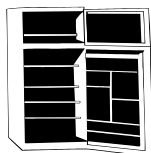
All children reaching 12 months of age should receive the Hib booster at the same time as the MMR vaccine to give extra protection against Haemophilus influenzae B infection.

New leaflets “Hib vaccine – a guide for parents” have been printed. Please contact your Local Health Office if you have not received them



Clean out that fridge!

All expired vaccines (regardless of source) can and should be returned for destruction through the National Cold Chain Services.



Practices and areas are asked to place all expired stock in a container/bag including a list containing the vaccine name(s), batch number(s), expiry date(s) and quantity. This can then be handed over to the driver at your monthly delivery.

Hepatitis vaccines

To ensure a secure supply of Hepatitis vaccines two companies have been awarded national contracts.

	Adult	Paediatric
Hepatitis A	Havrix Adult (GSK)	Havrix Junior (GSK)
	Avaxim (Sanofi Pasteur MSD)	Epaxal (Baxter)
Hepatitis B	Engerix B Adult (GSK)	Engerix B Paediatric (GSK)
	HBVax Pro TM 10 (Sanofi Pasteur MSD)	HBVax Pro TM 5 (Sanofi Pasteur MSD)

Please note

- **Hepatitis vaccines are not interchangeable - once a patient has started a course using one vaccine they must complete the course using this product**
- When ordering these products you should specify which branded vaccine you require
- You may also be sent the alternative product for use on new patients only.

Change of “National Cold Chain Service” provider

Since 2005 Cahill May Roberts (CMR) has provided a high quality National Cold Chain Service. However their contract expires on 31st December 2006.



Following a recent procurement process for this service the HSE is pleased to announce that United Drug Distribution have been awarded the new contract and will commence delivery services from January 1st 2007.

A member of United Drug Distribution’s Customer Service Team will contact your practice shortly to verify your account details etc. Further communications will be issued to you as we approach the changeover date identifying the specific details pertinent to your practice.

The HSE National Immunisation Office, looks forward to continuing to provide a quality vaccine ordering and delivery service through our new contracted agents United Drug Distribution and we do not envisage any disruption to the existing service.



Immunisation Conference 2007 -Date for Your Diary

The 4th National Immunisation Conference will take place on Monday 16th April 2007 to coincide with the start of the World Health Organisation's European Immunisation Week. This will be held in Dublin and we are now planning the conference programme.

Please let us know if there are any topics or speakers you would like to hear.

More details in the next Newsletter

Change of Contact Details

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For up to date information on childhood and adult immunisations for health professionals and the general public.

www.immunisation.ie

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