

To: **Practice Immunisation Clinical Leads, Practice Managers and Practice Immunisation Nurses in GP Practices in London**

NHS England
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
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9 August 2024

Dear Colleagues,

Action to take: Decide whether to opt-in to the Selective Neonatal Hepatitis B vaccine domiciliary service (4 week and 12-month monovalent doses) for your patients who are on the Selective Neonatal Hepatitis B Vaccination programme

Background

As a GP practice, you currently provide monovalent Hep B vaccination to babies who are on the Selective Neonatal Hep B Vaccination programme. These are babies born to mothers who have screened positive for Hep B during their pregnancy. The selective neonatal programme includes the two additional monovalent doses of Hep B at 4 weeks of age and at 12 months of age. This is in addition to the universal hexavalent vaccinations at 8 weeks, 12 weeks and 16 weeks of age, that are offered to every baby.

We recognise that the contacting of the family, scheduling and giving of the monovalent 4-week dose and 12-month dose of Hep B vaccine (along with taking a DBS sample at 12 months) can be quite time consuming for a practice. We also know that most practices are likely to only have one or two babies a year on the Selective Neonatal Hep B Vaccination pathway and so maintaining a robust process within the practice may be difficult for staff.

Proposed Service

Therefore, from 1 September 2024, GP practices in London can choose to allow the new Children's and Young People's Community Immunisation Service (CYPCIS) to provide the two monovalent Hepatitis B vaccination doses at 4 weeks and 12 months (including the DBS sample) on their behalf. This includes all the contacting and scheduling for these two doses.

This service has been developed as a result of the success of a similar scheme in the Midlands that has been running for a few years where nearly all monovalent doses are delivered by a community vaccination team, resulting in approximately a successful 98% achievement with the timeliness of the 4-week dose in particular.

In South East London and South West London ICBs, the CYPCIS provider from 1st September is Hounslow & Richmond Community Healthcare (HRCH)– contact details are below

In North East London, North Central London and North West London ICBs, the CYPCIS provider from 1st September is Vaccination UK – contact details are below

Practices will still always be responsible for scheduling and providing the routine universal hexavalent immunisations at 8 weeks, 12 weeks and 16 weeks, as they do for all babies on their list, as these are important and useful points of contact with families with new babies.

Options for Your Practice

Practices can choose to opt in to allow the CYPCIS service to be responsible for the monovalent Hep B vaccinations at 4 weeks and 12 months (including the DBS). If practices choose this option, CYPCIS will robustly communicate with the practice to confirm that the monovalent doses have been given and that the universal doses at 8 weeks, 12 weeks and 16 weeks are due. Obviously if practices opt-in to this service, the practice will not claim for the two monovalent doses on CQRS. Practices will also continue to receive the outcome of the DBS sample at 12 months.

Alternatively, practices can choose not to opt in to this service and to continue to be responsible for scheduling and providing the 4 week and 12-month doses (plus DBS sample) to their babies on the Selective Neonatal Hep B vaccination pathway.

Decision and Action to Take:

Therefore, we are asking GP practices to confirm if they would like to opt-in of this new service or not (i.e. to continue to provide the monovalent vaccine doses at 4 weeks and at 12 months).

Please respond using the electronic survey [here](#) by **23rd August 2024**. Practices can change their mind at any time by contacting the CYPCIS. If a practice does not confirm an option at this point, you will be contacted by the CYPCIS when a case arises to discuss options.

Full details are provided below so practices can make an informed decision.

This letter has also been shared with local ICB's and LMC's.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information. If you have any questions, please do contact us on london.immunisationincidentscars@nhs.net

Yours sincerely,



Dawn Hollis
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ICARS & Digital Transformation
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Proposed Selective Neonatal Hepatitis B vaccination service

The number of babies in London who go onto the Selective Neonatal Hepatitis B Vaccination pathway currently averages about 650 babies per year. This means that often an individual practice may see none or one baby per year. The proposed service to provide the 2nd and 6th doses is intended to help ease the burden on practices. The financial impact for practices is low as the Item of Service fee is £10.06 per dose, which if a practice opts in, the practice will not claim for the two monovalent doses (so £20.12 per baby). The aim of the CYPCIS service is to help ensure timely immunisations for these rare cases where patients may be hard to engage with and delays can lead to severe clinical consequences.

The protocol for babies born to Hepatitis B positive mothers (Table 1 below) is:

- The first dose of Hepatitis B vaccine (and Immunoglobulin if required) will continue to be given within 24 hours of birth by maternity services in hospital
- The second monovalent Hepatitis B dose due at 4 weeks of age will be given within the family home, delivered by the CYPCIS. This change can be implemented for the babies in your practice for babies due the second Hepatitis B dose on or after the **1st September 2024**
- The 3rd, 4th and 5th Hepatitis B doses, included in the Hexavalent vaccines which are part of a baby's routine primary immunisation schedule, will continue to be offered at the baby's registered GP Practice
- The final monovalent Hepatitis B dose due at 12 months of age and Dried Blood Spot Test (for Hepatitis B Surface Antigen) will be offered by the CYPCIS at the family home. This change can be implemented for the children in your practice reaching their 1st Birthday on or after **1st September 2024**

Table 1: Neonatal Hepatitis B domiciliary service in London for babies born to mothers with chronic Hep B infection in pregnancy from 01/09/2024

Age	Vaccine	Current Provider	Provider if practice opts-in to new arrangement from 1/9/24
At Birth	Monovalent Hepatitis B & HBIG, if indicated	Maternity services	Maternity services
4 weeks	Monovalent Hepatitis B	GP	CYPCIS
8 weeks	DTaP/IPV/Hib/Hep B (Hexavalent vaccine)	GP	GP
12 weeks	DTaP/IPV/Hib/Hep B (Hexavalent vaccine)	GP	GP
16 weeks	DTaP/IPV/Hib/Hep B (Hexavalent vaccine)	GP	GP
1 year	Monovalent Hepatitis B & Blood Test for HBsAG	GP	CYPCIS

The CYPCIS will inform the child’s GP and responsible Child Health Information Service (CHIS) of Hepatitis B doses within two days of administration and upon receipt of the DBS result. If the DBS result is negative, the CYPCIS will inform the parents of the result. However, in the rare event of a positive HBsAG result it will remain the responsibility of the GP, as you do now, to inform the parent of the child’s DBS result when it comes through to you and to make the appropriate referrals into a clinical service.

If a baby moves into or out of the area during the first year of life, CYPCIS and CHIS will ensure that the CHIS and GP in the new area are informed of the need for monovalent vaccination. This does not over-ride the standard admin processes undertaken by a GP practice when a child moves practice, which must still be undertaken by the practice.

As the opt-in to this service does not commence until the 1st September 2024, it is important to continue to offer infants currently on the Neonatal Hepatitis B programme the required vaccinations and blood test via your usual process until 1st September 2024 and/or if you choose not to opt-in to the service.

The CYPCIS providers are:

ICB	Provider	Contact details
South East London South West London	Hounslow & Richmond Community Healthcare (HRCH)	<p>Trust Headquarters Thames House 180 High Street Teddington TW11 8HU</p> <p>Switchboard: <u>020 8973 3000</u></p> <p>Neonatal Hepatitis B contact Sinead Hylton sinead.hylton@nhs.net</p>
North East London North Central London North West London	Vaccination UK	<p>Trust Headquarters 5 Portmill Lane Hitchin SG5 1DJ</p> <p>Neonatal Hepatitis B Coordinator Simona Popescu vul.neonatalhepb@nhs.net M: 07511 427 207</p>