



- **Prescribing of “non-NHS” vaccines**

Some GP Practices are prescribing a significant amount of Revaxis (Diphtheria, polio and tetanus) and hepatitis B vaccines on the NHS. Please be aware that:

Revaxis - should be obtained from Immform if it is for indications covered by the national programme. The national programme covers patients having up to 5 (recorded) vaccinations of tetanus in their lifetime, even if a current request is due to travel purposes e.g. patient going abroad and their last dose was more than 10 years ago.

Hepatitis B - should be given as a single vaccination on a private prescription if it is for purposes linked with travel.

- **Long – acting reversible contraception (LARC)**

NICE has updated their guidelines on LARC with the aim of increasing the use of LARC by improving the information available to women about contraceptive choices. Included is information on contraceptive provision and prescribing, information and informed consent, contraception for special groups and training [link](#). The guidance endorses a patient decision aid from the Family Planning Association which gives information at a glance on all methods of contraception <https://www.sexwise.fpa.org.uk/resource/contraception-glance-chart>

- **Lyme disease: management and prevention**

As the holiday season is upon us and there will be an increase in the number people “exploring” the outdoors it was felt it would be useful to highlight a number of resources which are available to facilitate prompt and appropriate treatment of Lyme disease.

- The NICE Lyme disease guideline <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng95> provides detailed advice on the awareness, diagnosis and management, as well as providing useful information for patients.
- BMJ infographic on antibiotic choices recommended by NICE for treating Lyme disease.

- **Uptake of Vaccine**

Many of our readers will have seen recent news articles reporting that a significant number of patients are “distrusting” of vaccines. This was in response to a recent global study which found that eight in ten people (79%) 'somewhat' or 'strongly agree' that vaccines are safe, while 7% 'somewhat' or 'strongly disagree', another 11% 'neither agree nor disagree' and 3% said they 'don't know'. In high-income regions, only 72% of people in Northern America and 73% in Northern Europe agree that vaccines are safe. In Western Europe, this figure is lower, at 59%, and in Eastern Europe is only 50%. It is believed that a significant contributor to this “distrust” is mis-information being available on social media. As our national vaccination scheme has been extremely beneficial for public health the Chief Medical Officer is encouraging all health care professionals to help correctly inform patients. This will be particularly pertinent issue as the annual influenza vaccination programme will commence next month. Traditionally Northamptonshire's level of flu vaccine uptake has been below the national average and this has ramifications for patients and the local health care service due to higher levels of morbidity and mortality.

- **Update on vaccines for 2019/20 seasonal flu vaccination programme**

NHS England has updated their advice on the vaccines included in the vaccination programme for the coming flu season. Cell grown quadrivalent vaccine, Flucelvax Tetra is now licensed for use in the UK for patients aged ≥ 9 years. [link](#). This presentation is suitable for those aged 9-64 years in clinical at-risk and other eligible groups and for those aged 65 years and over. The high dose trivalent vaccine (TEV-HD) is licensed for use in the UK but has a significantly higher list price than other equally suitable vaccines and will not be commissioned or reimbursed by NHSE.

- **Clostridium Difficile Guidelines**

Information on Clostridium Difficile for GPs has been updated on the GP portal. Included are risk factors for C. Diff infection and updated advice on antibiotic choice to reduce the risk.

- **Decision support tools can help GPs reduce antibiotic prescriptions for respiratory conditions**

A 12% reduction in GP antibiotic prescriptions for respiratory conditions was achieved through the use of electronic decision and training tools in a large NIHR-funded trial. This reduction did not increase the risk of serious infections compared to usual care. The decision support tool gave prompt access to NICE prescribing guidelines and printable patient information leaflets when a respiratory tract infection code was inserted into a patient's medical record.

This edition is also available on the Primary Care Portal

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