

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Centre for Public Health Excellence

Review decision

Review of public health guidance (PH21) - Reducing differences in the uptake of immunisations (including targeted vaccines) among children and young people under 19 years

1 Background information

Guidance issue date: September 2009

3 year review: 2012

2 Review decision

The guidance will not be updated.

It will be reviewed for update in a further 2 years (in 2015).

In the meantime, the guidance will be amended to take account of new public sector structures relevant to the guidance; link to the 'Green Book' and refer to Caldicott principles in recommendation 6. See [section 7](#) for further details.

3 Process for updating/reviewing the guidance

Public health guidance is reviewed 3 years after publication to determine whether all or part of it should be updated (see process manual for further details: <http://publications.nice.org.uk/the-nice-public-health-guidance-development-process-third-edition-pmg5/updating-public-health-guidance>).

The process for updating NICE public health guidance is as follows:

- NICE convenes an expert panel to consider whether any new evidence or significant changes in policy and practice would be likely to lead to substantively different recommendations. The expert panel consists of selected members (including co-optees) of the original committee that developed the guidance, the review team that produced the original evidence reviews and representatives of relevant government departments.
- NICE consults with stakeholders on its proposal for updating the guidance.
- NICE may amend its proposal, in light of feedback from stakeholder consultation.

NICE determines where any guidance update fits within its work programme, alongside other priorities.

4 Consideration of the evidence and practice

NICE convened a group of experts in health protection, paediatrics, immunisation practice and health economics that had contributed to the development of the guidance in 2009. The experts met in July 2012 and discussed published and ongoing research of relevance to the guidance and considered whether any new evidence or significant changes in policy and practice would be likely to lead to substantively different recommendations.

The group noted that all of the recommendations might need updating to reflect changing responsibilities and structures for commissioning and delivery of immunisation services but at the time there was insufficient detail about the changes due to take effect from April 2013.

Much of the evidence discussed related to the implementation of the guidance, for example:

- measurement of uptake and coverage;
- records updated in the area of residency, the area where the vaccination was administered and in the GP practice register; and

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- coordination between screening and information services.

Implementation and post publication feedback

No new evidence was identified through post publication enquiries that would indicate a need to update the guidance.

Implementation feedback suggests that the guidance should specify that recommendation 6 is consistent with Caldicott principles. In some localities there was confusion about this. Some healthcare professionals were concerned whether it is appropriate to record mother's hepatitis B status on the child's health record.

Feedback also indicates that the guidance is “much needed, is well read, often quoted, and used as evidence amongst those people involved in immunisation”(DH National Support Team 2011).

5 Stakeholder consultation

The proposal stated the guidance should not be updated at the present time, but reviewed again in 2014 to consider any new evidence.

Twenty-five stakeholder organisations responded including the Department of Health, Health Protection Agency, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, Royal College of Nursing, UCL Institute of Child Health, several PCTs, Glaxo Smith Kline, Pfizer, Sanofi and others. The stakeholders agreed that all the recommendations were still relevant and useful. They also agreed that there was insufficient new evidence available that would cause a change to the existing recommendations.

6 Related NICE guidance

Since the publication of PH21 in 2009, NICE has published 3 sets of guidance that are of possible relevance to this guidance.

Published guidance

- Identifying and managing tuberculosis among hard-to-reach groups
NICE public health guidance 37 (2012). Available from
<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/PH37>
- Clinical diagnosis and management of tuberculosis, and measures for
its prevention and control. NICE clinical guideline 117 (2011). Available
from <http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG117>
- Hepatitis B and C - ways to promote and offer testing to people at risk
of infection. NICE public health guidance 43 (2012). Available from
<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/PH43>

7 Equality and diversity considerations

No evidence has indicated that the guidance does not comply with anti-discrimination and equalities legislation.

The guidance is inclusive of children and young people aged under 19 years, but focuses on those from population subgroups at increased risk of not being immunised or only partially immunised.

7 Conclusion

It was agreed recommendations in PH21 are still relevant and that there was currently, insufficient new evidence to change existing recommendations. It was noted that research is ongoing and there has been considerable change to the policy and organisational context of the guidance.

The guidance will be reviewed again in 2 years time, to consider new evidence emerging about the uptake of human papilloma virus (HPV) immunisation and other emerging evidence on opportunistic interventions in hospitals. Research is under way but very little has been completed and published in 2012.

The review for update will take account of any other new evidence on the uptake of immunisation and details about organisational and commissioning

arrangements for immunisation services which are due to come into effect on 1 April 2013.

In the meantime, the guidance will be amended as follows:

- To take account of new NHS structures, public health systems and responsibilities for immunisation including those of the NHS Commissioning Board, Public Health England and Directors of Public Health.
- A hyperlink to the online version of 'Immunisation against Infectious Disease' - the 'Green Book' will be included.
- A statement that Recommendation 6 is consistent with Caldicott principles.

All of this information and relevant hyperlinks can be added to the PH21 webpage and 'Immunisation for children and young people' NICE Pathway 'landing page'.

The guidance will be reviewed again in 2015.

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