



## Meningococcal (Men ACWY)

### Useful information

- Please see the Nimenrix Patient information leaflet, the consent form and the immunisation information for young people available of the main website page.
- NHS Vaccinations website <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/>

**This Vaccine can not be routinely administered by your GP, therefore it is extremely important that your child receives this at the offered time within school. It is common for universities to ensure your child has a full immunisation history prior to attending. Living in closed communities such as university halls of residence has been identified as a risk factor for developing Meningitis**

Coventry and Warwickshire partnership trust offer the Men ACWY vaccine to all young people who are in year 9 or equivalent school year. The immunisation will be offered to those who are born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2004 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2005 within Coventry, Warwickshire, Solihull, Worcestershire and Herefordshire.

If your child does not receive the immunisation within the school setting we do undertake clinics within our local community which your child can attend to receive the vaccination. We want to make sure every child who is eligible can receive the vaccine therefore we offer extra support to those who may require it. Please contact us for further information about this.

The Men ACWY vaccine protects against specific strains of bacteria that can cause Meningitis. It is a quadrivalent conjugate vaccine, that protects against four capsular groups of bacteria. It is classed as a booster immunisation as the individual should of received three previous immunisations that would of given them a level of protection against specific bacteria that can cause meningitis. The UK schedule is currently:

- Two months = 4cMenB Vaccine
- Fourth months = 4cMenB Vaccine
- One year = Hib/Men C conjugate vaccine & 4cMenB Vaccine
- Fourteen years = Men ACWY conjugate vaccine

Please read below for specific information about the immunisation.

Please see the individual tabs on the main webpage for the schedule for your local area and the dates of our community clinics which you can book onto. Please note the schedules are subject to change.

# Meningococcal Meningitis

Meningitis occurs following a systemic bacterial infection caused by neisseia meningitidis. There are 12 groups of bacteria that can cause this. The booster immunisation that is routinely administered at 13 - 14 years provides long term coverage against the most common forms.

The bacteria that causes meningitis is transferred by air, droplets or direct contact with someone who is carrying it. It is key to seek health care advice if you have been in close contact with someone who has developed meningitis

Meningitis is an infection in the lining of the brain and spinal cord. It is an extremely serious disease that can cause disability and can be fatal. The progression of meningitis is extremely rapid, it is key to ensure that any individuals seek professional advice and act quickly to ensure the best chance of survival.

## Septicaemia

Septicaemia is blood poisoning caused by the same bacteria that causes meningitis. It is extremely serious and again can be fatal. It also progresses very rapidly and therefore it is key to seek professional advice.

### Signs and Symptoms of Meningitis & Septicaemia

- **Temperature**
- **Vomiting**
- **Headache**
- **Neck stiffness**
- **Drowsiness**
- **Confusion**
- **Sensitive to bright light**
- **Red or purple rash that does not disappear when a glass is pressed against it**
- **Cold hands and feet**
- **Rapid breathing**

On the day of the vaccination a team of nurses, health care assistants and administration support will attend your child's school. Your child will be called up with their peers.

### **Why should my child receive the Men ACWY immunisation?**

The immunisation is given to young people within the age range above to ensure they receive long term protection from contacting the most prevalent forms of meningitis. Even if you received your Men C immunisation as a baby it is important you receive the booster as not only does it protect against Men C it also protects against A, W and Y strains.

### **How is the vaccine delivered?**

The vaccine is delivered intramuscularly into the deltoid muscle in the upper arm via a needle. It is very quick and feels like a sharp scratch.

### **I have had viral meningitis, do I still need this immunisation?**

Viral meningitis is not caused by bacteria. The Men ACWY vaccine protects you from bacterial meningitis which is very different. Viral meningitis is rarely life threatening and individuals in most cases take around 5 – 14 days to recover without any medical treatment.

You still need to receive the Men ACWY immunisation.

### **Will there be any side effects?**

A “localised reaction” around the injection site is common: redness, swelling, soreness and sometimes a small painless lump can appear. Some individuals may feel achy and tired. Other Side effects are rare but sickness, fever, headache, dizziness can occur.

### **Can everyone receive the Men ACWY Immunisation?**

The majority of those who are eligible for the immunisation can receive it. There are only few circumstances where it can not be administered. One of these being if a individual has had a previous anaphylactic reaction to any of the components in the vaccine.

### **Can anyone else receive the vaccine?**

Although as a service we immunise those up to the age of 18, nationally there is a “catch up campaign” with GPs for individuals up to the age of 25.

The vaccine that we use is the nimenrix vaccine.

### **Measles**

**In 2017/18 the west midlands has seen an increase across all age groups in this highly infectious viral illness that can be very unpleasant and sometimes lead to serious complications. Please note, all young children/young people up to 18 years of age should have received 2 doses of the MMR vaccination (normally given by 5 years of age). It is important for you to contact your GP if they have not received these 2 doses as they can still receive the vaccination. (the immunisation team are unfortunately unable to offer the MMR Vaccination).**