



# DE~BUGGED

*Focusing on the provision of Clean, Safe Care ...*

Infection Prevention and Control Newsletter for Worcestershire Health & Care NHS Trust,  
GP Practices and Nursing Homes

## ALL CHANGE FOR VACCINATION

Worcestershire Health and Care   
NHS Trust





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A number of changes to the current vaccination schedule are planned with three new vaccination programmes, which protect against flu, shingles and rotavirus. In addition, a slight changes o the current meningitis C vaccine schedule is anticipated.



If you require further information about any item in this newsletter please contact the Infection Prevention & Control Nurses on 01386 502552

-  It is thought that the addition of rotavirus will start on 1 July 2013 when children under 4 months will be routinely vaccinated against this infectious illness. It is the most common cause of vomiting and diarrhoea (gastroenteritis) in infants and young children. Nearly every child will develop gastroenteritis caused by rotavirus by the time they are 5 years old. In children younger than five years in the UK, this infection is responsible for around 140,000 GP visits and 14,000 hospitalisations every year. The vaccine will be administered as a droplet into babies' mouths during their 2 and 3-month vaccination appointments.
-  It is thought that children aged 2 years (around 650,000 in total) will also be offered a nasal flu vaccine from September 2013 as part of a number of pilot programmes to vaccinate primary and pre-school aged children against seasonal flu. This pilot programme is to ensure that the NH S is prepared to roll out the programme in full to all pre-school and primary school children in 2014.
-  A shingles vaccination programme is also being considered for people aged 70, with a catch-up programme for those aged up to, and including, 79 years. Shingles is an infection of a nerve that causes pain and a rash along a band of skin by the affected nerve. The infection is caused by the herpes varicella-zoster virus, which also causes chickenpox. Following chickenpox infection, the virus can lie dormant in the nervous tissue but may reappear following reactivation as shingles. The programme may start in September 2013 and it is estimated that around 800,000 people in the UK will be eligible for the vaccine in the first year.
-  Finally, the current schedule for protecting people against meningitis C will also be updated. A new teenage booster jab given at around 14 years which will replace the vaccine dose that is currently given at 4 months of age . Evidence shows the routine four month meningitis C vaccine dose is no longer required.

## No action today means no cure tomorrow' Dr Margaret Chan, WHO

Did you know that in the UK, 80% of healthcare prescription of antibiotics occurs in primary care, with over half being for respiratory tract infections. The inappropriate use of antibiotics is related to bacterial resistance, so using antimicrobials responsibly should help control this and also reduce the incidence of pathogens such as Clostridium difficile.

There are in the main two campaigns which promote antimicrobial stewardship in the UK. TARGET which relates to Antimicrobial Stewardship in Primary Care (and is promoted in General practice and then the Start Smart and Focus campaign which promoted 5 antimicrobial prescribing decisions.

**Stop at or before 5 days** **Switch IV to Oral at or before 48 hrs treatment** **Change to a more appropriate agent (check microbiology results)** **Continue beyond 5 days if clinically indicated** **Consider Outpatient Parenteral Antibiotic Therapy (OPAT).** **FINALLY** Remember to review decisions daily with microbiology results, and document all decisions. It is essential that when antibiotics are prescribed a clear indication is documented for their use and course duration is clearly stated. Where clinically appropriate, stopping treatment at 5 days should be actively considered. Primary care prescribing guidance can be viewed at [www.worcestershirehealth.nhs.uk](http://www.worcestershirehealth.nhs.uk) under infection prevention and control service and then clicking on policies and procedures and scrolling down to Antibiotic Prescribing.

### Worcestershire Guidelines For Primary Care Antimicrobial Prescribing

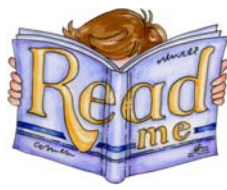
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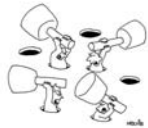
#### Always consider if antibiotic treatment is necessary

Prescribing antibiotics for viral or mild self limiting infections such as coughs and colds is unlikely to improve the course of the illness, puts patients at risk of side effects and encourages further consultations. Antibiotics should be targeted at those patients who are most likely to benefit. The Clinical Knowledge Summaries (CKS) Library contains many patient leaflets that support appropriate use of antibiotics ([www.cks.library.nhs.uk](http://www.cks.library.nhs.uk)). The Department of Health website gives details of the Public Health campaign and available leaflets ([www.dh.gov.uk/en/publichealth/antibioticprescribing](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/publichealth/antibioticprescribing))

## SAFER SHARPS



There are a number of existing and new laws that require employers to protect health care workers from sharps injuries. A European directive was introduced in May 2010 that requires healthcare organisations to introduce further protection for health care workers exposed to the risk of sharps injuries. The Health and Safety (Sharps Instruments in Healthcare) Regulations 2013 set out to implement the EU Council Directive 2010/32/EU on the prevention of sharps injuries in the hospital and healthcare sector. Many of the requirements contained in the Directive already formed part of health and safety law in Great Britain. The new regulations only contain those requirements that are not specifically addressed in existing legislation.. If you use sharps in your role take some time to think about whether there are devices available to you to minimise the risk of sharps injuries, whether this be around safer point of use disposal, safe transportation, use of ampoule snappers or considering many of the safety devices which are now available. Consider any change carefully and ensure that it will not incur new risks and that staff are aware of how a device should be used and managed prior to it being implemented.



## BEAT THE BUGS

This year the Infection Prevention and Control Conference and Product Exhibition for Qualified Clinical Staff is planned for 23 May at the Charles Hastings Education Centre. The day is entitled "Beat the Bugs" and will look at how we can further enhance clinical practices to promote infection prevention and control. Topics discussed on the day will include Antimicrobial Stewardship, Cleaning Schedules, Safe Sharps and a review of the last twelve months related to infection prevention and control. The afternoon will provide delegates with an opportunity to consider practices in their own area and explore any improvements which could be made. A number of product exhibitors will also be in attendance. If you require more information or would like to book a place, please contact Gail Preece on 01386 502597.

## DON'T BE IN THE SPOTLIGHT



There has recently been an increase in the number of measles cases nationally, particularly in South Wales. This has been in relation to both children and adults which for some has resulted in admission to hospital. Measles is an unpleasant illness that can cause serious complications and spreads easily so it is important to find out if as a healthcare worker you are immune or not. If staff are not immune, measles can pose a risk to them personally and to patients they will come into contact with. Both employers and employees have a shared responsibility under Health & Safety legislation to protect, as far as is reasonably practical, staff at work and patients and their families against the potentially serious risks of contracting measles, especially to those in vulnerable groups. Take action now to make sure that you are aware of your immune status and appropriately protect yourself and those you come into contact with.

**DID YOU KNOW...Around two to ten million bacteria can be found between our fingertips and elbows.  
Hand Hygiene is essential to stop the spread of infection.**

## MDA ALERT—WIPES

Medical Device Alert MDA/2013/019 relating to detergent and disinfectant wipes used on reusable medical devices with plastic surfaces

was issued in March and highlighted that inappropriate use of wipes can damage plastic surfaces of medical devices if the wipes are not compatible with the surface material. Damaged surfaces can compromise the ability to decontaminate adequately and may interfere with device function. Action is required by all staff who are involved in decontamination and as with current infection prevention and control advice this promotes that guidance is sought from the manufacturer that the wipe is appropriate for use on a particular item. Key points relate to :

- ✎ Ensuring detergent and disinfectant wipes are compatible with surfaces/device.
- ✎ Always following the device manufacturer's decontamination instructions.
- ✎ Looking for signs of damage and
- ✎ Following local reporting procedures if it is believed that the manufacturer's decontamination instructions are inadequate.

In the Trust, two wipes are promoted for decontamination:

**Multi-surface detergent wipes** for quick and easy decontamination of items that are visibly soiled or have been used on intact skin in accordance with manufacturers' guidance. They may be used as a pre clean prior to using a 70% alcohol hard surface disinfectant



wipe or for items that are required to be cleansed prior to re use but cannot withstand disinfection. Wipes are available as small self sealing packs or larger buckets so it is possible to purchase containers of an appropriate size. They are available from NHS Supply Chain - code VJT077 bucket of 225, VJT 010 refill pack of 225, VJT100 pack of 60. Smaller packs of 30 wipes are also planned for the future.

**Hard Surface Disinfectant Wipes (70% Alcohol)** for use on hard surfaces that are visibly clean and as an added level of decontamination during outbreak situations. They are available from NHS Supply Chain - code VJT158 for 6 dispensers of 200 wipes.



For more information on wipes, decontamination practices or cleaning schedules contact the Infection Prevention and Control Nurses on 01386 502552.