

Vaccination Transformation Programme (VTP) e-newsletter – issue 2 (Jan 2020)

Dear colleague

Welcome to the second issue of the Vaccination Transformation Programme (VTP) e-newsletter, which provides quarterly updates on work underway to modernise the delivery of vaccinations across Scotland. It aims to provide public health, health improvement, primary care, health and social care and third sector colleagues with information about how new service delivery models are being developed, tested, implemented and supported to ensure the health of the Scottish public.

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NHS Highland flu vaccination programme delivery changes

NHS Highland carried out tests of change in delivery of different aspects of the flu vaccination programme for the 2019/20 flu season.

For those 65 years and over, and those eligible for the pneumococcal vaccine for the first time, a collaboration was agreed with the Alness/Invergordon Medical Group to deliver the programmes to patients registered with the practice by an NHS Highland immunisation team of nurses. The Health Board began delivery of two mass clinics, replicating the process carried out by the practice in previous years. Mop-up clinics were held at community centres and a community hospital within Alness and Invergordon respectively. The team also delivered the programmes to housebound individuals and four care homes served by the Alness/Invergordon Medical Group.

The immunisation team delivered flu vaccinations to the residents of 13 care homes in and around Inverness. The care homes ranged from 22- to 90-bed units. The team will also deliver flu vaccinations to housebound individuals registered with Inverness GP practices.

Colleagues in Helensburgh who currently deliver childhood vaccinations alongside the school programme agreed to deliver the 2–5 years programme in the Helensburgh/Lomond area. The programme sessions used local nurseries as venues.

Evaluations of each of the tests of change will be carried out.

Tayside child flu programme changes

Tayside has implemented a new model for seasonal flu delivery for children aged 2–5 years and children under 18 years 'at risk', with the Tayside immunisation team assuming responsibility for administration of all children's vaccinations. This year the team are using EMIS web for booking and recording appointments and information is being shared with practices using Excel, which can then be uploaded onto Vision. A significant number of additional flu clinics have been arranged across Tayside. These sessions are being held in a mix of GP practices and community clinic venues. Phone lines were initially at high capacity and clinics have filled up particularly quickly in some areas. Anecdotal feedback from the immunisation team regarding appointing and clinics has generally been positive. However, the 8-minute appointments are challenging, particularly for 'at risk' children, as the need for clinical assessment regarding suitability for vaccination has been more time-consuming than routine preschool immunisations.

Audit and evaluation and lessons learned through survey feedback are being planned. Learning from the current programme will be used to agree and plan the longer-term model of service delivery.

Tayside maternity

Tayside rolled out delivery of pertussis vaccine by midwives in February of this year and included flu in pregnancy from October 2019. This means all vaccinations in pregnancy have now transferred away from GPs into maternity services. Again, anecdotal feedback from midwives is positive with the general view that the pertussis vaccinations are now becoming established practice.

Flu vaccinations have been more difficult for midwives in terms of the number of women requiring flu immunisation within a shorter time frame. Feedback to date suggests recording of vaccinations and sharing information with GPs has been challenging and time-consuming as there is currently no IT infrastructure in place to support this. An interim short-term solution which depends on hard copy records and information sharing with practices via the clinical portal has been agreed. However, it is hoped that the implementation of Badgernet in 2020 will provide longer-term solutions to recording and information sharing and reduce some of the associated workload experienced by midwives and practice staff this year.

Tayside adult flu pilot

Tayside is piloting the delivery of flu vaccinations for adults 65 years and over and 'at risk' in a cluster in northwest Angus with clinics in Kirriemuir and Forfar. The aim is to test the potential of a new adult vaccination model that transfers responsibility from GP practices to the NHS and HSCPs. In Forfar, the pilot involves a series of 'community clinic' style vaccination sessions at Whitehills Health and Community Care Centre. To provide an alternative, parallel test, eligible Kirriemuir patients are invited to clinics at their own practice, with a mixture of pre-booked and 'walk-in' appointments. The ambition is to build on the developments this year with wider tests of change in Angus, Dundee and Perth & Kinross for adult programmes in 2020/21, before moving on to full implementation across Tayside.

Feedback is being gathered from staff and patients as the programme of change progresses, generating essential learning and knowledge about relevant processes, procedures and constraints. This is to enable key issues to be addressed as they are identified, as well as supporting ongoing work to develop a model that will deliver the

optimum, most efficient, effective, equitable and patient-centred future vaccination service possible for the Tayside adult population.

VTP board reset

On 21 November a refreshed and strengthened VTP Programme Board, led by the new senior responsible owner, Derek Grieve, met to agree the reset of the programme and to refresh the governance supporting it. This refresh is intended to address the challenges experienced to date, and to provide the mechanism to overcome these and ensure the programme's successful completion. The board agreed that high levels of vaccination uptake are a key factor in supporting the health of the public, and it is vital that new vaccination services are safe and sustainable. The board will be exploring how to evaluate new vaccination services, ensuring that in addition to safety and sustainability, we also keep in sight our aspirations of transforming and modernising delivery, supporting local decision-making, and supporting the transformed role of the GP. A big ask, but we are confident that this challenge can be met.

Travel health

The GP contract offer noted that travel vaccinations and travel health advice were a significant time burden on GP practices and would be prioritised by the Vaccination Transformation Programme for optimal alternative options for re-provision. This has proved to be a challenging and complex task, not least because there is no existing definition of what is meant by 'travel health provision' in Scotland. In partnership with the Scottish General Practitioners Committee (SGPC), colleagues in NHS Health Boards, Health Protection Scotland (HPS), Faculty of Travel Medicine and travel health practitioners across the country, we now have a clearer idea of what that provision should encompass, and we are working on developing the operational

models to deliver this. The planned approach will encompass a national entry point for all travellers, enabling them to self-assess their need for further advice or intervention before directing them to the appropriate source. We have commissioned HPS to make changes to the [fitfortravel website](#) to make it more 'user friendly' to facilitate this. Should the traveller require specialised travel-health advice or travel vaccinations, they will be provided locally. In line with the VTP's ethos of empowering local decision-making around delivery models, each Health Board will determine how best to provide travel health services for the traveller in their area. Some Health Boards are planning pilots of these local services during 2020.

Information systems

In the last newsletter we said we were looking into existing NHS IT systems to see if these can be adapted to support transformation of services during VTP. We have now compiled a detailed picture of the options available to enable local decision-making around which IT solution(s) to use and we will be working with both suppliers and Health Boards early in the new year to implement this.

While we work to deliver 'interim' solutions to support the transition to the new delivery models, we are aware of significant developments in the wider e-Health landscape. We continue to work with delivery partners in the CHI/Child Health Replacement Programme, SPIRE, GP IT Reprovisioning Programme and so on to ensure that any impacts on vaccination service delivery are signposted well in advance, and that vaccination delivery requirements are incorporated whenever possible.

Scottish vaccine update

Health Protection Scotland regularly publishes the [Scottish Vaccine Update](#), which is a national bulletin on immunisation in Scotland. It aims to provide frontline health professionals in Scotland with information and practical advice on immunisation policy and practice together with vaccine supply information. [Issue 73](#) and [Issue 74](#) are now available.

Get in touch

If you have any questions about VTP, please email vtp@gov.scot. You can also contact your local VTP business change manager in each Health Board. Find contact details on the [VTP national webpage](#).

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