

JCVI history and terms of reference

- **Last modified date:** 12 April 2010

JCVI is a Standing Advisory Committee with statutory responsibilities to advise Ministers.

The Committee was originally an advisory board for polio immunisation that became the JCVI in 1963. It was put on a statutory footing when it became a Standing Advisory Committee, established in England and Wales under the NHS Act 1977. The JCVI in its current statutory form was established by the NHS (Standing Advisory Committees) Order 1981 (SI 1981/597) made under what are now provisions of the National Health Service Act 2006 and the NHS (Wales) Act 2006.

The JCVI's terms of reference as defined in legislation are:

'To advise the Secretary of State for Health and Welsh Ministers on matters relating to the provision of vaccination and immunisation services, being facilities for the prevention of illness.

The Committee must advise the Secretary of State for Health and Welsh Ministers on matters relating to vaccination and immunisation as the Committee considers appropriate and on any questions referred to it by the Secretary of State or Welsh Ministers. In particular, under the provisions of the Health Protection (Vaccination) Regulations 2009 which implements the NHS Constitution in England, upon request of the Secretary of State, the JCVI must make recommendations relating to new provision for vaccination (other than vaccination relating to travel or occupational health) under a national vaccination programme or to changes to existing provision under such a programme, that are based on an assessment which demonstrates cost-effectiveness.'

The Committee may also provide advice to Scottish and Northern Irish ministers.

The JCVI's approach to its role is:

'The Committee focusses on vaccination and immunisation against infectious diseases. In formulating any advice and recommendations, the Committee's aim is to ensure that the greatest benefit to public health is obtained from the most appropriate vaccination and immunisation strategies. The Committee will therefore appraise available evidence from a comprehensive range of sources, including evidence on the burden of disease and the impact of vaccines, the safety, efficacy and quality of vaccines, and strategies for their use.'

Extracted from: http://www.dh.gov.uk/ab/JCVI/DH_094787