

JCVI updated advice on H1N1v vaccination

8 December 2009

The committee considered new advice from the European Medicines Agency¹ on the use of Pandemrix in young children based on data from the manufacturer showing a higher rate of fever in young children following a second dose. The committee also considered preliminary data on the reactogenicity of H1N1v vaccines from a paediatric trial coordinated by the Health Protection Agency.

The committee concluded that for children offered Pandemrix, one dose (that is half the adult dose) should be given to children aged over 6 months and below 10 years that are healthy or in the clinical at risk groups as defined previously by the JCVI² with the exception of children who are immunocompromised. Immunocompromised children in this age group should receive two doses (both half the adult dose) of Pandemrix that are given at least 3 weeks apart. Advice on the use of Pandemrix in children aged 10 years and above and adults remains that previously given by the committee².

Parents should be advised to look for signs of fever following H1N1v vaccination. Childhood antipyretics can be given to treat a fever should one develop. However, they should not be given before or shortly after vaccination in anticipation of a fever since there is some evidence that this may make vaccines less effective.

¹ European Medicines Agency advises of risk of fever in young children following vaccination with Pandemrix
<http://www.emea.europa.eu/pdfs/general/direct/pr/78440409en.pdf>

² JCVI minutes 8th October 2009
http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@ab/documents/digitalasset/dh_108833.pdf