19 October 2015

Bexsero (Meningococcal B vaccine)

Parents have understandably been enquiring about the new Bexsero vaccine.   This is the new meningococcal type B vaccine program that has recently been added to the normal vaccinations for children in the UK and Jersey.

It is currently not being made available as part of the normal immunisation schedule in Guernsey.

HSSD are considering the future provision of this as part of the normal schedule but in the meantime there is the option for parents to have children vaccinated privately at the GP surgeries.

More information on the vaccine is available at
http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations/Pages/meningitis-B-vaccine.aspx

The NHS system gives the vaccines at 2 months, and then two more boosters at 4 and 12 months.

Some parents in the UK who have children born after the start of the programme are also electing to have their children vaccinated privately.

If you want to pay for your child to be vaccinated this is possible.

Children under 2 years old will need three vaccines in total. Those over two will need only two.

If you would like have your child immunised you should contact your GP who can prescribe this vaccine for you.

Using this prescription the local pharmacies can order the vaccine and each vaccine will cost up to £115, paid to the pharmacy. The vaccine can then be given by the practice nurse and a nurse consultation paid for each visit. This amount varies depending on the surgery.

Meningitis B is the most common form of meningitis in children.

Complications: It is a serious disease causing meningitis and septicaemia with 5% mortality in children and many survivors experiencing long term complications including deafness and abnormal limb growth.

We hope putting this information to the island community will be of benefit when parents are making the difficult decision to vaccinate or not. Please visit your doctor if further information is required.

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