Department of Health

Rheynn Slaynt

Clinical Recommendations Committee

Recommendation 05/13

The Isle of Man Department of Health will fund – as A HIGH PRIORITY - vaccination against the most common strains of Rotavirus for babies at 2 and 3 months of age.

Approved by the Minister on 27 January 2014

Clinical Background Information

This proposed change was recommended to add rotavirus vaccination to the existing routine childhood immunisation programme. This is in line with its adoption into the NHS England, Scotland and Wales Routine Childhood Immunisation Programme.

Vaccination consists of two doses of oral vaccine administered at 2 and 3 months of age.

This is a new addition to the routine childhood immunisation programme to prevent a diarrhoeal disease - rotavirus. Rotavirus is the commonest cause of diarrhoea in children under 5 years of age worldwide. The burden of gastroenteritis disease caused by rotavirus is greatest in developing countries but it does cause hospitalisation and deaths in developed countries.

In England and Wales, an estimated 130,000 episodes of rotavirus-induced gastroenteritis occur each year in children under five years of age and approximately 12,700 of these children are hospitalised. In the UK, deaths caused by rotavirus are extremely rare and difficult to quantify accurately, but in England and Wales there are approximately three to four a year. As far as records show the Isle of Man, Nobles Hospital has approximately 11 admissions per year for children under 5 years of age with a primary diagnosis of rotavirus. In 2012 the number of under 5’s admitted was 23 in total, for last year January to June 2013 there were 9 admissions for children under 5 years. It is anticipated there will be fewer paediatric admissions to hospital due to rotavirus gastroenteritis allowing paediatric staff to focus on other cases.

Anecdotally many children may not have a specimen submitted for laboratory confirmation so the cause of their diarrhoea may go unknown and they are cared for by family at home.

Adults may become infected; however, repeat infections are generally less severe than infections during childhood.

As this is an addition to the routine vaccination schedule adopted by the rest of the United Kingdom, variance from this would mean disparity for the local population giving rise to an inequitable situation. There is a need for new and annual funding to purchase the vaccines.
Babies arriving from elsewhere to live in the Isle of Man who have already commenced the 2 dose vaccination would be unable to complete the schedule and left unprotected if this proposed change was not adopted.

It is envisaged that parents would be unhappy if the routine vaccine was not made available to their children as is the practice in the rest of the United Kingdom. Some parents have already been asking for the vaccination.

**Criteria/Pathway**

Rotavirus vaccination is offered to all new born babies (generally around 800 per year) at 2 and 3 months of age to prevent rotavirus diarrhoeal disease as well as the accompanying distress for families and potential admission to hospital of the baby.

There will be no staffing implications as it will be part of the existing routine childhood immunisation programme and be administered with other routine vaccines at the same age.

**Evidence**

Recommended by Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) – please see the link under the References heading as part of Public Health England - The infant rotavirus vaccination programme. Vaccine is now available at a much better cost, making this a cost effective strategy as described by JCVI.

Proposed surveillance by Public Health England for the impact of the infant rotavirus immunisation programme in England and Wales will be used to inform future local practice. The Isle of Man cannot participate in this as we are not included in the COVER Programme. Locally audit will be undertaken by assessing uptake rate, refusal, and impact on childhood admission with rotavirus.

**Vaccine**

There is a need for new annual funding to purchase the vaccines – this is based on 800 births/year x 2 doses being a total of 1600 doses. Cost of the vaccine is governed by commercial sensitivity but we estimate the annual cost to be in the region of £18,500.

**Administration**

An item of service cost will be paid related to targets of full vaccination being met, estimated at £6,200 per year.

**Total annual cost estimated to be £24,700**

**Financial Resources**

This recommendation was approved by the Minister to be funded from within the current Department of Health budget allocation.
Acknowledgements

Dr Parameswaran Kishore (Director of Public Health), Isle of Man Department of Health with input from Jacqui Dunn (Health Protection Nurse) Public Health Directorate, Isle of Man Department of Health, and Clinical Recommendation Committee Members.

References

Public Health England Rotavirus vaccination link:
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/rotavirus-vaccination-programme-for-infants

Immunisation against infectious disease: the green book link: