

# Is your baby due their MenB vaccine?

## Please ask your pharmacist about paracetamol for your baby



Babies born on or after 1 May 2015 are now offered the MenB vaccine along with their routine immunisations.

Fever can be expected after any vaccine, but is more common when the MenB vaccine is given with the other routine immunisations at 2 and 4 months of age. This is why it is recommended that your baby gets infant paracetamol when getting these immunisations to prevent and treat fever. **Ask your pharmacist for infant paracetamol for the MenB vaccine. Please bring along your baby's 'red book'.**

In remote and rural areas, paracetamol may be available at your GP practice.

Your baby should have a total of three doses of infant paracetamol around the time of each of their first two MenB immunisations. The doses must be spaced out as follows:

Age of baby	Dose 1 paracetamol	Dose 2 paracetamol	Dose 3 paracetamol
2 to 4 months	One 2.5 ml (60 mg) dose to be given just before or just after their immunisations	One 2.5 ml (60 mg) dose 4–6 hours after dose 1	One 2.5 ml (60 mg) dose 4–6 hours after dose 2

The first dose of infant paracetamol should be given just before or just after the routine immunisations. You may already have infant paracetamol at home. If you don't, you can get the paracetamol from your pharmacist before your baby's immunisations are due.

**For more information on paracetamol and the MenB vaccine, please visit:**

**[www.immunisationscotland.org.uk/menb](http://www.immunisationscotland.org.uk/menb)**

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**Help protect your baby against MenB**

**2015**

**New vaccine for babies – available from 1 September 2015**

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**What to expect after immunisation: Babies and children up to 5 years**

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**Common side effects**

Most vaccine side effects are at the site of the injection. These include:

- soreness
- a small, hard lump

These side effects usually go away within a couple of days and you don't need to do anything about them. Sometimes children may become a little feverish. You can help by:

- giving them a cuddle
- offering them extra drinks if you are worried they don't drink enough
- taking them for a walk in the fresh air

If the injection site is swollen with pain, there could be a rash in the area for about 1-10 minutes. This may help to soothe your baby.

**After watching the guide, if you remain concerned, ask your health visitor for any information that you are still unsure of. Contact your health visitor or contact NHS 24 on 111 if you are worried about your baby. Trust your instincts.**

**After immunisation with MENB vaccine**

Because the vaccine is given by mouth (orally), the vaccine is absorbed into your baby's gut and may be passed to other people in the family. Anyone in close contact with your baby should practice good personal hygiene, for example washing hands after changing the baby's nappies.

Babies who have had the routine vaccine are immune to meningitis caused by most other oral strains of the virus. However, the oral strain of the virus that causes MenB is not included in any other vaccine and so you may develop it in their family, school, or day care. MenB is not spread about your child, so you can't look for indicators only in their nappies.

If you happen to be worried about your child, speak to your GP, NHS 24, or call 111 or go to the emergency department of your nearest hospital.

**More information**

Have a question or an enquiry? Call 111 or visit the website: [www.immunisationscotland.org.uk](http://www.immunisationscotland.org.uk) or visit our website: [www.healthyscotland.org.uk](http://www.healthyscotland.org.uk) or your local GP surgery.

**www.immunisationscotland.org.uk**

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