

THE MEDICAL PRACTICE AT 48 WIMPOLE STREET

48 WIMPOLE STREET LONDON W1G 8SF

TEL: 020 7935 4357 • 020 7486 7876

FAX: 020 7224 0625

wimpole48@btconnect.com

PRACTICE POLICY ON CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATIONS

AIMS

To immunise fully all children in the practice aged 8 weeks to 5 years against

- Diphtheria
- Tetanus
- Pertussis
- HIB Meningitis
- Polio
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella

To provide a paediatric travel vaccination service.

TARGET GROUP

- All children aged between 8 weeks and 5 years
- Those children over 5 years who have not been immunised
- Parents of children in receipt of polio vaccine who have not had a course of immunisation themselves
- Those requesting travel advice

Newly registered infants and children have their immunisation status established at registration with the practice. Those who see a Paediatrician or NHS Clinic are excluded from our recall system. If we administer adhoc vaccinations to these groups they will be entered into the child's red book and advised to notify their NHS clinic of this so that they can be entered into the National Database. Migratory patients are given vaccination details in a hand held record to carry with them.

IDENTIFICATION OF PATIENTS

- Practice computer search monthly
- For new births, the appointment for first immunisation is given to parents at the eight week check
- Appointments for the second and third immunisations are given following attendance at the clinic for the previous injection
- If patients fail to make an appointment or attend they will be contacted on the telephone to assess their need for the immunisation: has it been given elsewhere so that we can update our records or do they need more information?

PROTOCOL

Informed consent is always obtained before immunisation after the child's fitness and suitability have been established.

Specific advice on the care of a child following immunisation is given to parents both verbally and in written form.

All Vaccinations

- Is the child well?
- Have there been any reactions to previous immunisations?
- Check patient notes
- Check immunisation, batch number and expiry date to be given

- Enter in childhood immunisation form on computer notes and delete previous review date and enter next one
- Enter in patients red book and inform parents to forward details to NHS clinic where appropriate
- Discuss side effects and contraindications before administration

Polio

Contra-indications of a Live Vaccine

- Febrile illness
- Vomiting and diarrhoea
- Immune system suppression eg. Drugs, steroids, radiation, tumours, leukaemia, lymphoma
- Siblings of immunosuppressed children – give inactivated polio
- Interval of less than 3 weeks since previous live vaccine

Pertussis

Contra-indications

- Neonatal cerebral damage – until condition is stable
- Febrile illness

Special considerations

- Severe local/general reaction to previous vaccine – Green Book page 163
- Epilepsy in parents or siblings
- Personal or family history of febrile convulsion

Measles, Mumps, Rubella

Contra-indications

- Acute febrile illness
- True egg allergy – anaphylaxis
- Immunosuppression –drugs, steroids, irradiation, malignancy
- Allergy to neomycin or kanamycin
- Interval of less than 3 weeks since previous live vaccine or 3 months since immunoglobulin

Advice

“About 5-10 days after MMR vaccination some children are slightly unwell with fever and occasionally a rash. This is not serious. It is like a very mild form of measles and your child is not infectious. It is important to give Paracetamol Paediatric Suspension - 5 mls every 4-6 hours and to keep your child cool.”

DPT and Polio can be given at the same time as MMR.

Convulsions

Children who have a tendency to convulse should be counselled specifically on the management of a fever developing after immunisation. Febrile convulsions may occur 5-10 days after MMR whereas they may take place 72 hours after pertussis. Use of regular paracetamol routinely for the first 72 hours post immunisation or prn rectal diazepam maybe necessary.

Anaphylactic Shock

No absolute contraindication to the use of adrenaline.

REFERENCES

- 1) hpa.org.uk
- 2) mmrthefacts.nhs.uk
- 3) Patient Information Leaflet: After your Child's Vaccination.
- 4) Immunisation Update Lecture @ Child Health Promotion Course, March 2004
Dr Elizabeth Miller, Head of Immunisation Division, Health Protection Agency.