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Hepatitis A vaccination: temporary recommendations - update

Public Health England have updated travel recommendations and dose sparing advice for adult and paediatric hepatitis A vaccines

The supply of adult and paediatric monovalent hepatitis A and all combination hepatitis A/B vaccines are improving and look likely to improve further through 2018. Considering this and the discontinuation of some combined hepatitis A/typhoid vaccine product, Public Health England (PHE) have updated travel recommendations and dose sparing advice for adult monovalent and paediatric hepatitis A vaccines [1, 2].

Adults

PHE now encourage the use of adult antigen, rather than paediatric antigen content hepatitis A vaccines in adults. The updated recommendations offer alternatives for pre and post exposure immunisation and boosting in adults, when the availability of monovalent hepatitis A vaccine is limited [1].

Children

PHE now encourage the use of paediatric vaccines in children, where possible. The updated recommendations offer alternatives for pre and post exposure immunisation and boosting in children, when the availability of monovalent paediatric hepatitis A vaccine is limited [2].

Special risk groups

PHE recommends that all men who have sex with men (MSM) attending genito-urinary medicine (GUM) and HIV clinics without reliable evidence of previous vaccination or infection should be opportunistically offered hepatitis A vaccination. The advice table for MSM vaccine options has now been removed from the adult temporary recommendations document because hepatitis A vaccine for MSM is still available via GUM and HIV clinics. MSM who have received hepatitis A vaccination at least 6 months ago can receive a booster dose at their next visit to sexual health services. [1].

Please refer to the updated temporary guidance documents on hepatitis A vaccine recommendations in adults and children for additional detail.

Advice for travellers

Advice on [hepatitis A](#) risk in specific countries is available on the [TravelHealthPro Country Information pages](#).

Resources

- [Hepatitis A in brief](#)

- [Public Health England. Hepatitis A. Immunisation against infectious disease](#)

References

1. [Public Health England: Hepatitis A vaccination in adults - temporary recommendations. Updated 19 July 2018 \[Accessed 20 July 2018\]](#)
2. [Hepatitis A vaccination in children - temporary recommendations. Update 19 July 2018 \[Accessed 20 July 2018\]](#)