

JOINT WORKING PARTY OF THE BRITISH PAEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION AND THE
JOINT COMMITTEE ON VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION LIAISON GROUP

Note of a meeting held on Tuesday 30 September 1986

Present:	Sir John Badenoch (Chairman)	-	JCVI
	Professor A G M Campbell	-	BPA
	Professor R W Gilliatt	-	JCVI
	Professor P R Grob	-	JCVI
	Dr S M Hall	-	BPA
	Professor D Hull	-	JCVI
	Professor J K Lloyd	-	JCVI
Also present:	Dr J Barnes)	
	Dr J R H Berrie)	DHSS
	Mr J R Long)	
	Mr L T Wilson)	

1. Apologies for absence and announcements.

Apologies were received from Professor Moxon. The Chairman welcomed Dr S M Hall who had replaced Dr Euan Ross on the BPA Immunisation Committee.

2. Note of the meeting held on 26 June 1986

This note was agreed after minor amendments were made.

3. Matters arising

(a) Item 7 (i) - Site of injection : Dr Barnes stated that the Department was in touch with _____ who is a member both of the General Medical Services Committee of the BMA and the JCVI) in order to obtain his agreement to the wording already suggested for the Memorandum 'Immunisation Against Infectious Disease'.

(ii) - Jet injectors : The Chairman noted that a CMO/CNO circular letter on jet injectors had already been

issued.

- (b) Item 9 - Need for training of medical students, post-graduates and other health service staff in immunisation.

Members stressed the need to make the Memorandum on Immunisation Against Infectious Disease available to medical students. They might best be supplied with it when the topic was covered in their paediatric course.

- (c) Item 11 - Low uptake rates of vaccination in certain health authorities.

Mr Wilson reported that the Department had replied to the report of the Public Accounts Committee. He added that during autumn a DHSS team consisting of a doctor, nurse and administrator would visit three Regions. It was proposed to visit two districts in each Region (one with a high uptake and the other with a low uptake of immunisation). The pointed out that the CMO/CNO circular on whooping cough dated 21 July (which had been tabled) reminded District Health Authorities that they had already been asked to designate a person or persons to take responsibility for immunisation programmes.

- (d) Item 15 - Measles, mumps and rubella vaccine (MMR vaccine).

The Chairman stated that the report of the Scientific meeting held by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Colindale in June was now available and would be considered by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) at its next meeting.

- (e) Item 17 - Antibody response and clinical reactions in children given measles vaccine with immunoglobulin.

The Chairman said that a paper was to be presented to the next meeting of the JCVI concerning the use of immunoglobulin with measles vaccine. It was agreed that, while the specially diluted immunoglobulin was unlikely to impair the development of immunity produced by measles vaccine, its use acted as a disincentive to vaccination. Members pointed out that anti-convulsants such as Diazepam given per rectum in appropriate dosage might be an alternative to the use of immunoglobulin to prevent seizures in patients who were prone to convulsions. After discussion it was agreed that the Memorandum in the section dealing with the use of immunoglobulin with measles vaccine might suggest that alternatively other suitable prophylactic treatment against febrile convulsions might be used on such patients.

- (f) Item 18 - Professor Moxon's paper on polysaccharide vaccines would be presented at a future meeting.

The Chairman observed that three other matters arising from previous meetings, contra-indications to whooping cough vaccine, myths regarding contra-indications and immunisation of immunocompromised children, would be considered as agenda items. These together with the subject of site of injection, immunisation of premature infants, recommendations on maximum age for whooping cough vaccination, and MMR vaccine completed matters discussed by the Group at the present and at previous meetings.

4. Proposed new section on whooping cough for the Memorandum 'Immunisation Against Infectious Disease' and contra-indications to whooping cough vaccination. BPA/JCVI(86)23
Paper by the Department

Dr Berrie introduced this paper. The following amendments were agreed:-

- 4.1 Maximum age at which whooping cough vaccine can be given.

(a) 3.1.5 omit '..... or even, if necessary, at over the age of school entry.'

(b) 3.3.3 Replace 'Pertussis vaccine is recommended for children up to their sixth birthday, but ' with 'while it is hoped that children will have been vaccinated by their sixth birthday,

- 4.2 Side effects and adverse reactions

(a) 3.4.1 (a), line 1 - after 'malaise' insert ', excessive screaming,'

(b) 3.4.1 (b) line 1 - replace 'occasionally' with 'rarely' - lines 3 and 4, omit the phrase 'or an episode of excessive screaming.'

4.3 Contra-indications to whooping cough vaccination

(a) 3.5.1 b. - After discussion it was agreed to delete 'a personal history of convulsions' from 'absolute contra-indications' and transfer this category to 'conditions where vaccination requires special consideration.' (This is to become (ii) in section 3.5.2 a.)

Sub-section (ii) to become (i)

Line 1 - replace 'certain' with 'any'

Line 2 - delete 'such as' and replace with '. The following reactions should be regarded as severe:-'

Lines 4 and 5 - replace 'can involve' with 'involves'

Last line - replace '; encephalopathy' with

'or convulsions occurring within 72 hours.'

(b) 3.5.2 a. - The first sentence should be replaced by the following statement 'There are certain groups of children in whom the advisability of whooping cough vaccination requires special consideration.' Also (i) add 'documented' before 'history'; (ii) now becomes 'children with a personal history of convulsions'; re-number (ii), (iii) and (iv).

(c) 3.5.4 should become 3.5.3: (i) - in line 4 'a dose of' should be inserted before 'triple vaccine'

(ii) - in lines 5 and 6 delete 'on the prevention and control of these

(iii) - add ', excluding pertussis vaccine' after 'programme'

(d) Section 3.5.3 should become section 3.5.4 and

5. Myths about contra-indications to immunisation
- proposed additional paragraph for
the Introduction to the Memorandum
Paper by the Department

BPA/JCVI(86)2

Dr Berrie introduced this paper.

The following amendments to the new paragraph 1.2.2 e. were agreed:-

- (a) The section should be headed FALSE CONTRA-INDICATIONS/ ^{(caps or bo} an
the first sentence of the sub-paragraph of the section should be
deleted and the second sentence should simply read 'The following
conditions are NOT contra-indications.....' in emphatic print.
- (b) Sub-paragraph(i) delete 'irrelevant', add 'hay fever' after
'eczema', and add 'or locally acting steroids' after 'antibiotics'.
- (c) Subparagraph (ii): Delete 'usually irrelevant' replace
remarks on allergy with 'A history of allergy is NOT normally a
contra-indication but if there is a history of severe anaphylactoid
hypersensitivity to eggs measles and influenza vaccines should be
withheld.' Delete remainder of section.
- (d) subparagraph (iii) This should be a completely
separate paragraph in the section and given emphasis; 'Down's
Syndrome' should be added to the list.

6. Immunisation and Immuno-suppressed children
Paper by Professor Campbell

BPA/JCVI(86)25

Professor Campbell introduced his paper which was accepted by
the Working Party as a useful working summary.
stressed the need to know whether or not children embarking on

treatment for leukaemia had had natural measles or had been vaccinated against measles. The suggested that the last sentence of paragraph 5 of Professor Campbell's paper should be given emphasis in the Introduction to the Memorandum.

7. Measles vaccination: Summary Report on an investigation of failure to reach a measles immunisation uptake in the Maidstone Health Authority (Dr Lakhani et al, Department of Community Medicine, St Thomas's and Guy's Medical and Dental Schools } for discussion BPA/JCVI(86)26

The commented that the paper described a position which was still bedevilled by false contra-indications to measles vaccination. The large list of so-called reasons for withholding measles vaccine was disheartening. A small minority of health professionals were causing disproportionate harm.

 commented that often parents wanted the vaccine given but were dissuaded by health service staff.

 stressed the need for training of health service professionals and the Chairman considered that the 'responsible person' in each district (quoted in previous circulars) should organise such training.

8. Any other business

 Professor Campbell mentioned that Dr Angus Nicoll was editing a simplified version of the American Red Book for the use of those immunising in the field. The book was also to contain a short section devoted to the management infectious disease.

The book would be considered by the Immunisation Committee of the BPA. The Joint Working Party stressed that the recommendations contained in this manual should not conflict with those of the Memorandum on Immunisation Against Infectious Disease; apart from this the initiative was welcomed.

9. Date of next meeting

To be arranged.