

25 February 2009

Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London
SE1 8UG

Dear Colleague,

Recall of Menjugate Kit

Menjugate Kit is one of the vaccines used in the UK to protect children against meningococcal C infection.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued a Drug Alert to recall two batches of the Novartis meningitis C vaccine (product name 'Menjugate Kit'; batch numbers 236011 and 235012A). This is a precautionary action due to an investigation into a positive sterility test from a sample batch of the solvent used in the kit.

21,301 doses of these two batches of Novartis Meningitis C vaccine have been sent to GPs. GPs have been asked to quarantine any stock and notify Movianto UK Ltd on 01234 248789 that they have product to be collected. Alternatively please email Rosina.Clark@movianto.com with details of the product to be collected.

Batches held centrally by the Department of Health have already been quarantined. The recall will ensure that vaccines from these two batches are no longer used, and replacement stock will be supplied.

Some children may have already received vaccine from these two batches and the MHRA has not received reports of any adverse reactions to date. The action being taken to recall vaccine is precautionary as there is currently no reason to believe that the vaccine distributed in the UK is affected by the problem found in the samples tested. The two batches distributed in the UK were tested prior to release and complied with all tests, including the sterility test.

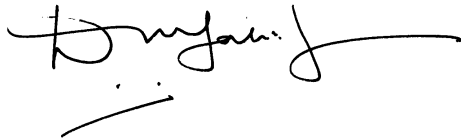
Parents who have concerns about the health of their child after vaccination should contact their healthcare provider or NHS Direct. The MenC vaccine is given routinely to children at 2 and at 4 months of age.

The Department of Health has sufficient stocks of other batches of Meningitis C vaccine.

The Department of Health is supporting the MHRA in its investigations.

This recall only applies to the two batches of Menjugate Kit identified above. It does not apply to other batches of this vaccine or other vaccines used in the childhood immunisation programme.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Salisbury', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Professor David Salisbury CB
Director of Immunisation