



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Dr Frank Atherton
Prif Swyddog Meddygol/Cyfarwyddwr Meddygol, GIG Cymru
Chief Medical Officer/Medical Director NHS Wales

All General Practitioners
Practice Managers
c.c. GPC (Wales)

7 September 2018

Dear Colleagues

MenACWY vaccination for first-time university entrants

I am writing to seek your support for the vaccination of first year university students up to 25 years of age against rare but life threatening invasive meningococcal disease.

These new university entrants should be vaccinated with the Meningococcal ACWY (Men ACWY) conjugate vaccine before the start of, or as soon as possible, in the new academic term in 2018.

I am aware that the uptake of this vaccine is around 40% for the age group most likely to be starting university in 2018. This means that six out of ten students are not currently protected.

Vaccination is best offered before new students begin university. However over the coming weeks students will be registering at university practices as they begin their academic courses. Do remember to check that they have received the MenACWY vaccine.

The MenACWY vaccine was introduced in Wales in August 2015 in response to a rapid increase in cases of a particularly aggressive form of meningococcal group W (MenW) disease, which causes meningitis and septicaemia. New university entrants are at particular risk of getting the disease as they are likely to be mixing closely with many new people, some of whom will unknowingly carry meningococcal bacteria.

Many thanks for your support.

DR FRANK ATHERTON
Chief Medical Officer / Medical Director NHS Wales