

Medical & Allied Branch  
Dr Lorraine Doherty



Department of  
**Health, Social Services  
and Public Safety**

[www.dhsspsni.gov.uk](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk)

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta  
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÄNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin  
an Fowk Siccar**

## HSS (MD)24/2008

Chief Executives, HSS Boards and Trusts  
Directors of Public Health, HSS Boards (*for onward distribution to screening leads and sexual health leads*)  
Director of Nursing, HSS Boards  
Directors of Pharmaceutical Services, HSS Boards/HSC Trusts/CSA  
GP Medical Advisers, HSS Boards  
Consultants in Communicable Disease Control, HSS Boards  
All Community Pharmacists  
Medical Directors, HSC Trusts (*for onward distribution to Consultants in Genito-urinary medicine, Gynaecology and Family Planning*).  
Nursing Directors, HSC Trusts (*for onward distribution to all Community Nurses and School Health Staff*)  
All General Practitioners (*for onward distribution to practice staff including practice nurses*)  
Regional Epidemiologist, CDSC (NI)  
Dr P Jackson, Chair, Regional Immunisation Committee  
Dr J Mairs, Regional Procurement Pharmacist

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Dear Colleague

### **INTRODUCTION OF HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS VACCINE INTO THE CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME: ANNOUNCEMENT OF VACCINE TO BE USED.**

I am writing to let you know which vaccine will be used in the new HPV (human papillomavirus) immunisation programme, starting at the beginning of the 2008/09 school year.

The contract to provide the vaccine has been awarded to pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline for their vaccine Cervarix<sup>®</sup>. The vaccine will be provided to Health and Social Care Trusts for the routine and catch-up immunisation programmes taking place from autumn 2008 to 2011. Stocks of HPV vaccines will be supplied via designated Trust Pharmacy Departments. The vaccine will be supplied as a single dose pack. Details of the vaccine are included in my letter of 22 May 2008, which can also be accessed at <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/phealth.htm>

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## **Further guidance on vaccine supply management**

I want to re-emphasise that given the high cost of vaccines, Trusts should ensure that they have robust stock management systems in place to minimise waste.

Each 1% of vaccine supplied in the current childhood immunisation programme is worth approximately £2m. This could increase to nearer £3m with the introduction of the HPV vaccine. Even small percentage reductions in vaccine wastage will have a major impact on the financing of vaccine supplies.

Trusts are asked to advise the Department what systems they have implemented to manage and control vaccine wastage.

More information will be provided regarding transporting and storing HPV vaccine at immunisation sessions as soon as possible. Further discussion, including with the manufacturer, is required on this issue and we do not wish to delay the vaccine announcement meanwhile.

Any queries on local Trust supply and distribution arrangements should be made to the relevant Trust Pharmacy Department. The Regional Pharmaceutical Procurement Service (Tel: 028 9055 2386) will provide information on availability and distribution of central supplies of the HPV vaccine to Trust Pharmacy Departments.

Yours sincerely



**DR LORRAINE DOHERTY**  
**Consultant Epidemiologist/Senior Medical Officer**

