



Infection report

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Immunisation

Invasive meningococcal disease (laboratory confirmed reports in England): April to June 2015

In England, the national Public Health England (PHE) Meningococcal Reference Unit (MRU) confirmed 173 cases of invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) between April and June 2015 [1]. IMD cases were 20% higher in this quarter than the 144 cases confirmed in the equivalent quarter in 2014 (table 1). There were 279 cases confirmed in the January to March 2015 period [2].

The distribution of meningococcal capsular groups causing IMD by age is summarised in table 2, with capsular group B (MenB) accounting for 58% (101/173) of all cases, followed by MenW (n=43, 25%), MenY (n=23, 13%) and MenC (n=3, 2%). The number of MenW cases in the first two quarters of 2015 combined (n=112) was 2.2 times higher than the 52 cases confirmed during the same period in 2014, whilst MenY increased by 53% from 45 to 69 cases. MenB cases increased from 234 in the first quarter of 2014 to 252 cases (7% increase) in the same quarter of 2015 and the number of MenC cases fell from 18 to 13 cases (28% decrease). During the first two quarters of 2015, there were no reported cases for capsular groups A, X and Z/E (table 1) in England.

In quarter 2 of 2015 MenB was responsible for the majority of IMD cases in infants (33/41, 80%) and toddlers (31/40, 78%) but contributed to a lower proportion of cases in older age groups (table 2). The introduction of a routine national MenB immunisation programme for infants was announced in June [3] with immunisation of infants starting from 1 September 2015.

Capsular groups other than MenB were more prevalent in older age groups (table 2). However, 30% of the 43 MenW cases were in children under 5 years with 44% in adults aged 65+ years, and 9% in 15-24 year-olds. The previously reported increase in MenW cases [4,5] has continued and has led to the introduction of MenACWY conjugate vaccine to the national immunisation programme in England. [6,7]. MenACWY vaccine replaced the existing time-limited 'freshers' programme from August 2015 and will directly substitute MenC vaccine in the routine adolescent schools programme (school year 9 or 10) from Autumn 2015. In addition a

catch-up campaign is being implemented offering MenACWY vaccine to all adolescents aged 14 to 18 years (to school year 13); 2015 school leavers (aged 17/18) have been prioritised for the first phase of the catch-up.

Table 1. Invasive meningococcal disease in England by capsular group and laboratory testing method: April – June (Q2), 2015

Capsular groups ~	Laboratory method						Total		Cumulative total	
	CULTURE AND PCR		CULTURE ONLY		PCR ONLY					
	2014 (Q2)	2015 (Q2)	2014 (Q2)	2015 (Q2)	2014 (Q2)	2015 (Q2)	2014 (Q2)	2015 (Q2)	2014 (Q1-Q2)	2015 (Q1-Q2)
A	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	–	1	–
B	20	23	28	27	54	51	102	101	234	252
C	1	–	6	2	1	1	8	3	18	13
W	–	4	15	33	4	6	19	43	52	112
Y	3	3	8	15	1	5	12	23	45	69
Ungrouped*	–	–	–	–	2	1	2	1	5	2
Ungroupable*	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	2	–	4
Total	24	30	57	79	63	64	144	173	355	452

~ Note: No cases capsular groups A, X or Z/E were confirmed during any of the periods summarised in the table.

* Ungroupable refers to invasive clinical meningococcal isolates that were non-groupable, while ungrouped cases refers to culture-negative but PCR screen (*ctrA*) positive and negative for the four genogroups [B, C, W and Y] routinely tested for.

Table 2. Invasive meningococcal disease in England by capsular group and age group at diagnosis: April – June (Q2), 2015

Age groups	Capsular group ~										Total		2015 total	
	B		C		W		Y		Other *		Q2		Q1-Q2	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%		
<1 year	33	(33)	0	–	7	(16)	1	(4)	0	–	41	(24)	79	(17)
1-4 years	31	(31)	0	–	6	(14)	3	(13)	0	–	40	(23)	101	(22)
5-9 years	9	(9)	2	(67)	1	(2)	2	(9)	0	–	14	(8)	31	(7)
10-14 years	4	(4)	0	–	0	(–)	1	(4)	0	–	5	(3)	12	(3)
15-19 years	8	(8)	0	–	3	(7)	4	(17)	0	–	15	(9)	36	(8)
20-24 years	2	(2)	0	–	1	(2)	0	–	1	(33)	4	(2)	21	(5)
25-44 years	7	(7)	0	–	1	(2)	2	(9)	1	(33)	11	(6)	27	(6)
45-64 years	5	(5)	1	(33)	5	(12)	3	(13)	0	–	14	(8)	65	(14)
>=65 years	2	(2)	0	–	19	(44)	7	(30)	1	(33)	29	(17)	80	(18)
Total	101		3		43		23		3		173		452	

~ Note: No cases capsular groups A, X or Z/E were confirmed during any of the periods summarised in the table.

* Other includes Ungroupable and Ungrouped.

References

1. Data source: PHE Meningococcal Reference Unit.
 2. [Health Protection Report 9\(22\)](#), 26 June 2015.
 3. PHE and NHS England (2015). [Introduction of MenB immunisation for infants](#) (bipartite letter), 22 June.
 4. [Health Protection Report 9\(7\)](#), 27 February 2015.
 5. “[Freshers told ‘it’s not too late’ for meningitis C vaccine](#)”, PHE press release, 27 Nov. 2014.
 6. PHE and NHS England (2015). [Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccination \(MenACWY\)](#) (bipartite letter), 22 June.
 7. [Meningococcal ACWY \(MenACWY\) vaccination programme](#) webpages.
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