

Adolescent Health Programme and its contributions to the success of vaccination

Norway

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Childhood vaccination schedule in Norway

Age	DTaP	IPV	HIB	Hep B	MMR	dT	CPV 7		
3 months	x	x	x				x		
5 months	x	x	x				x		
12 months	x	x	x				x		
15 months					x				
7-8 y	x	x							
12-13 y					x				
14 – 16 y		x				x			



School Age immunisations

- School start: 6 years
 - 2. year: DTP-IPV
 - 7. year: MMR
 - Secondary school (14 – 16 years):
DT(P?)-IPV



The Norwegian school medicine system: organisation

- “The municipality shall offer all vaccines in the immunisation programme to the public”
- Responsible level: the municipality, practically the leading medical health officer
- Same system for infant and school based immunisations



Practical organisation of the school health system

- Almost all vaccines in Norway are given by public health nurses
- Public health nurse: Registered nurse with experience from paediatric and / or neonatal wards and one year theoretical / practical education
- Most “school health nurses” are working part time in a school, the rest of the week at well baby clinic (part of the same system)
- The “school health nurses” are taking care of
 - Illness during school time, small accidents etc
 - Lectures about diseases, sexual education
 - Immunisations



Immunisation at school

- Written information is sent by the children to the parents
- Written consent from the parents. Parents not present during immunisation sessions
- Immunisations take place during school hours: 3 - 4 - 5 pupils at a time invited to the nurse's office
- Vaccine administered by the "school health nurse"



Financing of the child and adolescent vaccination

- All vaccines in the vaccination programme financed by the government
- Funding given to NIPH as part of their budget
- Vaccines bought by the NIPH (tender procedure) and sent free of charge to the municipalities



Introduction of new vaccines in the immunisation programme

- Expert group organised by NIPH gives medical recommendations
- Cost-benefit evaluation delivered by Norwegian Knowledge Center for Health Services or other dedicated group
- Decision made by the Ministry of Health and Social Care Services



Criteria used in the decision process

- The disease
 - Seriousness
 - Incidence in the potential target group
- The vaccine
 - Efficacy / effectiveness
 - Safety
- Economical evaluations



How will a vaccination programme work?

- Can the vaccine be easily implemented into the existing programme?
 - Age
 - Number of doses
 - Intervals
 - Need for booster(s)
- How is the disease and the vaccine regarded by the public?
 - Serious disease, important to avoid?
 - Any rumours (positive or negative) about the vaccine?
- Can introduction of this vaccine jeopardise other parts of the programme?



Coverage for child / adolescent vaccination

- Around 90 (- 92) % for all vaccines given at school according to the Norwegian vaccination coverage database
- Minimum numbers, as we know that some municipalities still have problems with notification to the database
- Pertussis included 2006, otherwise unchanged school vaccination programme since 1983



Strength of the school immunisation system

- Good and effective system
- Good coverage
- Accepted by the public. So far little controversy related to vaccines given at school (some problems in anthroposophic (Steiner) schools)



Challenges for the school immunisation programme

- Main challenge: Maintain priority to the system in the municipalities
- Introduction of new vaccines: acceptance or general scepticism? (HPV???)
- New vaccines not introduced in the programme: can we risk undermining of the school-based system?



Conclusions

- Norway has a well functioning school health system
- Immunisations are given by public health nurses
- High acceptance, good coverage
- Main challenge: avoid that new vaccines undermine the system, by being included or by not being included

