Critical Review of HB-vaccination Programme Progress in Germany

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Surveillance

- New comprehensive communicable disease law (*Infektionsschutzgesetz*)
- Case-based system
  - illness (acute hepatitis)
  - pathogens
  - risk factors
- Case definitions
- Electronic reporting
Surveillance (II)

• Data available at all levels
  – local interventions
  – national trends
  – assessement of programs

• Feed-back
  – weekly
  – yearly summaries
    • access to data base
  – several media
Surveillance (III)

- Under-reporting
  - MDs
  - laboratory diagnosis
- Limited data set
- ICD-10 coding
Vaccination Recommendations

- STIKO tasks defined in new law
- Recommendations
  - infants and adolescents - universal
  - adults - risk groups
    - professionals
    - underlying illnesses
    - other risk groups
- Hexa-valent vaccine available
Vaccination Recommendations (II)

• STIKO recommendations
  – have to be taken up by states
  – agreed to be compensated by health insurers
  – implemented by MDs

⇒ time needed for implementation
Delivery System

- Pediatricians in private practice
- GPs
- Gynaecologists
- Hospitals
- Public health services
- Free of charge (social health insurance)
Delivery System (II)

• Vaccination by treating physicians
  – less ‘missed opportunities‘
  – but many players
  – stronger role of public health services?

• No school public health system
Monitoring System

- Vaccine coverage at school entry is rising quickly
- Sero-surveys
- Morbidity and mortality data
- Hospital discharge data
- Evaluation of outbreak investigations
Monitoring System (II)

• Vaccine coverage assessed at age ≈6 years - not at target age
• No vaccination registry
• Limitations of supplemental data (recording and coding)
• Vaccination coverage in adolescents and adult in risk groups relatively low
Screening of Pregnant Women

- Universal program
- 80% compliance
- Vaccination and HB-IG for newborns
  - follow-up
  - family contacts/partners?
Other Issues

- Notification system of adverse events
- Compensation for complications
- Vaccine safety and effectiveness
- Health education