About this Release
This release includes uptake rates for girls in S2 offered HPV immunisation during school year 2010/11. Following a consultation with users of these statistics during June/July 2011, the frequency of the publication of routine HPV immunisation uptake rates has changed from bi-annual to annual.

Key Points
• By mid-August 2011 uptake rates for girls in S2 in school year 2010/11 were 91.8% for the first dose, 90.2% for the second dose and 81.0% for the third dose. Data from the first three years of the HPV immunisation programme show that a number of girls in S2 complete their immunisation course after the end of the school year in which they were first offered the vaccine. Therefore uptake rates are expected to increase slightly, for the third dose in particular as some girls will have started their course of HPV vaccinations later in the school year and therefore will not be due their third dose until school year 2011/12. Updated uptake rates for these girls will be published in September 2012.

Background
The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is designed to protect against the two types of HPV that cause around 70% of cases of cervical cancer. Girls need three doses over a period of six months to give them the best protection. The HPV vaccine does not protect against all cervical cancers, so regular cervical screening is still important.

The HPV Immunisation Programme in Scotland started on 1 September 2008. The programme aims to protect girls by routinely immunising them at around 12-13 years of age, in second year of secondary school, through a school-based programme.

A catch-up campaign for older girls ran over a three-year period from September 2008 and applied to girls who were aged 13 to under 18 on 1 September 2008. Publication of a report summarising uptake rates for the catch-up programme is planned for Spring 2012.
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