Vaccination programmes for children in Scotland aim both to protect the individual from many serious infectious diseases and to prevent the spread within the wider population. This publication provides a quarterly update of immunisation uptake rates for children at 12 months, 24 months, 5 years and 6 years of age, by NHS Board and Community Health Partnership for the quarter and financial year ending 31 March 2014. For the first time, the publication also includes provisional figures on rotavirus immunisation which show uptake is high for this programme which was introduced in July 2013.

As a public health measure, immunisations have been hugely effective in reducing the burden of disease. It is of public health concern when immunisation rates fall, as this increases the possibility of disease transmission and, hence, complications arising from outbreaks of infectious diseases. In Scotland, the national immunisation programme target is for 95% of children to complete courses of the following childhood immunisations by 24 months of age.

- Diphtheria;
- Tetanus;
- Pertussis (whooping cough);
- Polio;
- Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib);
- Meningococcal group C (MenC); and
- Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV).

There is an additional national target of 95% uptake for one dose of the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine by five years of age (with a supplementary measure at 24 months). This target was introduced in 2006 to focus efforts on reducing the number of susceptible children entering primary school.
Further Information

The statistics in this update can be found in the Data Tables of this release. There is no Publication Report to accompany this quarterly release. Metadata and pre-release access information is also available for this publication.

We also publish an annual report on childhood immunisation uptake rates in Scotland in March. The annual report presents statistics by calendar year and provides comprehensive commentary including an outline of the UK Childhood Immunisation Schedule, an explanation of trends in uptake rates and information on data accuracy.

Our quarterly publication timetable mirrors the release of UK quarterly immunisation uptake rates by Public Health England (PHE).

Further information on Childhood Immunisation is available on the ISD website.

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About ISD
Scotland has some of the best health service data in the world combining high quality, consistency, national coverage and the ability to link data to allow patient based analysis and follow up. Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland - and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government Health Department and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

Official Statistics
Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of ‘Official Statistics’. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The Code of Practice is produced and monitored by the UK Statistics Authority which is independent of Government. Under the Code of Practice, the format, content and timing of statistics publications are the responsibility of professional staff working within ISD. Further information on ISD’s statistics, including compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and on the UK Statistics Authority, is available on the ISD website www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/