About this Release
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 and annual update of immunisation uptake rates for children at 12 months, 24 months, five years and six years of age, by NHS Board and Community Health Partnership for the quarter and year ending 31 December 2014.

Key Points

Calendar year figures:

- In Scotland, uptake rates by 12 months of age for complete primary courses of immunisation against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio & Hib (the five-in-one vaccine), MenC and PCV remained high in 2014, with rates above 97%.

- In Scotland the target of the national immunisation programme is for 95% of children to complete courses of the following childhood immunisations by 24 months of age: diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio and Hib (the five-in-one vaccine), MenC and PCV. In 2014, uptake rates of these vaccines remained high at 95% and above. At Scotland level, the 95% target has been met or exceeded since 2002.

- The national target is for 95% uptake of one dose of the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine by five years of age, with a supplementary measure at 24 months. In 2014, annual uptake of one dose of MMR vaccine by 24 months of age reached 95.6% (the previous figure was 95.4%). Uptake of one dose by five years of age was 97.3% (the previous figure was 97.1%). Uptake rates by five years have remained above the 95% target since 2009.

- At Scotland level, uptake rates were high across all deprivation categories. Uptake rates for completed courses of primary immunisations by 12 months of age were above 97% in all deprivation categories.
Background
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.

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Further Information
Further information can be found in the Full Publication Report or on the ISD website.