HPV Vaccination Statistics for Men who have Sex with Men, Scotland

12 month period ending 30 June 2018

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

Publication date: 30 October 2018

About this release
This release by Information Services Division (ISD) in collaboration with Health Protection Scotland (HPS) provides a summary of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination uptake among men who have sex with men (MSM) since implementation of the national programme in July 2017.

Main Points
During the first year of this vaccination programme:

- There were 5,905 individuals who received at least one dose of HPV vaccine. This represents a percentage uptake of 63.7% of eligible MSM attending sexual health clinics in this period.

- All NHS Board areas have been offering the vaccine to eligible individuals; however, there is variation in HPV uptake by NHS Board area.

MSM HPV Uptake (%) by NHS Board, 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018

Based on the most recent NHS Board of treatment
Most eligible individuals who received at least one dose were aged 20-29 (52.3%) at the time of their first injection. Only 7.6% were aged under 20.

In this time period 3,367 MSM who attended sexual health services (36.3%) were eligible for HPV vaccination by age and lifetime sexual history but did not begin the programme.

Background
HPV is a virus transmitted through sexual contact and there are over 200 different types of HPV. Some types can cause cancers of the anus, penis, mouth and throat, vagina and vulva. Others cause genital warts, which is one of the most common sexually transmitted diseases and can have debilitating social, sexual and psychological effects for affected individuals.

A HPV immunisation programme for MSM aged up to and including 45 years old was introduced in Scotland in July 2017. This is in addition to the school-based vaccination programme targeting girls which was implemented in 2008. MSM are now routinely offered the HPV vaccine through sexual health clinics, with most offered a three dose schedule. The second dose should be given at least one month after the first and the third within 12 months of the second.

The programme was initiated based on advice from the UK Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, which recognised that MSM received little benefit from the national female only HPV programme, while also being at excess risk of HPV-associated disease. HPV ano-genital infection and related disease is disproportionately higher in MSM who are up to 20 times more likely than heterosexual men to develop anal cancer. Additionally, the incidence of HPV-related oropharyngeal cancer is increasing in high-income countries in all men. The potential beneficial impact of the HPV immunisation programme for MSM is therefore considerable.

Contact
Duncan McMaster
Information Analyst
0141 282 2081
nss.isdmaternity@nhs.net

Stuart Wrigglesworth
Senior Information Analyst
0131 275 7128

Further Information
The data from this publication is available to download from our web page along with a metadata document which provides additional information about data sources and data presented.

Childhood immunisation statistics are also available on the ISD website.

The next release of this publication will be October 2019.