

FAQs - MenB vaccine (Bexsero)



What is the MenB vaccine?

The MenB vaccine helps to protect against disease caused by meningococcal group B (MenB) bacteria. MenB is the most common cause of meningococcal meningitis in the UK. The vaccine used in the NHS routine immunisation schedule is called Bexsero and made by the pharmaceutical company GSK.

Who is entitled to the MenB vaccine?

The MenB vaccine has been offered to all babies born on or after 1st May 2015. Most people born before this date will not have been offered the MenB vaccine through the NHS routine immunisation schedule. This vaccine is also recommended for people with certain long-term health conditions who are at greater risk. These include individuals with no spleen, or a spleen that does not work properly, sickle cell anaemia, coeliac disease and complement disorders (an immune disorder).

How effective is the vaccine?

There are many different MenB strains. This vaccine has been developed to offer protection against as many as possible. Since the introduction of this vaccine in 2015, cases of MenB disease had reduced by half in babies. The MenB vaccine also offers some protection against other types of meningococcal disease, including MenW.

No vaccine will offer complete protection from meningitis. Remaining vigilant is vital.

How many doses are required?

Babies receive three doses: at 2 and 3* months and a booster at 12 months of age. Anyone receiving the vaccine over the age of 2 years only requires 2 doses. It is vital that all doses are given, as protection following one dose is limited.

*From July 2025 the timing of the second dose changed from 4 months to 3 months to provide better protection to young babies

Can this vaccine cause meningitis?

No, the MenB vaccine is not a live vaccine and cannot cause meningitis.

Are there any side-effects?

As with all vaccines, side-effects can occur and are usually short-lived (24-48 hours). The most common side-effects include tenderness and swelling at the injection site, fever, irritability, vomiting and/or diarrhoea.

MenB and paracetamol

High rates of fever have been reported in infants receiving the MenB vaccine with their other routine immunisations.

Use of paracetamol has been advised for infants at the time of immunisation, to prevent fever. You will be given instructions on the use of paracetamol at your appointment.



Can I get the vaccine privately?

Yes. A variety of pharmacies, travel clinics and private GP practices offer this vaccine. Prices vary, so you may wish to contact more than one provider before making your choice. Expect to pay at least £110 per dose (a minimum of two doses are required).

Some GP surgeries may be able to help, so you may wish to ask at your GP surgery first. However, NHS contracts may prevent GPs being able to offer private treatment to their own patients.

Is there another MenB vaccine?

Another MenB vaccine, called Trumenba is licenced for use in Europe and the UK. This vaccine has been developed by Pfizer and is licenced for use in adults and children over the age of 10. This vaccine is available through some private providers.

Meningitis Now is here to help you.

We are saving lives and rebuilding futures through awareness, research and support.

If you have any questions or are interested in finding out how we can help, please get in touch.

Nurse-led Helpline: 0808 80 10 388 (UK)

Email: helpline@meningitisnow.org



Meningitis Now

Fern House • Bath Road
Stroud • Gloucestershire • GL5 3TJ
Tel: 01453 768 000
info@meningitisnow.org

References for the content of this fact sheet are available on our website:
<https://www.meningitisnow.org/who-we-are/policies/references-and-evidence/>