

Infanrix-IPV+Hib

In April, Public Health England circulated information concerning omissions with the Hib component of Infanrix-IPV+Hib vaccination. It is stated that 'All vaccine errors should be reported to the local NHS England Screening and Immunisation Team'. It is recommended that the NRLS is also included in this information dissemination as such omission is a Patient Safety Incident of the type 'medication error'. Reports should go through the normal route uploading to the NRLS, but please remember that those from GP practices can be via the following link: report.nrls.nhs.uk/GP_eForm.

New Dose Restrictions on Medications Containing Hydroxyzine

The [MHRA](#) has published a Drug Safety Update which includes measures to minimise the adverse risks of HYDROXYZINE on heart rhythm. These include restricting its use in those at high risk of heart rhythm problems and using the medicine at the lowest effective dose for as short a time as possible:

- Do not prescribe hydroxyzine to people with a prolonged QT interval or have risk factors for QT interval prolongation.
- Avoid use in the elderly - they are more susceptible than younger patients to the side effects of hydroxyzine.
- Consider the risks of QT interval prolongation and Torsade de Pointes before prescribing to patients taking medicines that lower heart rate or potassium levels.
- Prescribe the lowest effective dose for as short a time as possible.
- Adults maximum DAILY dose 100 mg.
- Elderly maximum DAILY dose 50 mg (if use cannot be avoided).
- Children up to 40 kg in weight—maximum daily dose 2 mg/kg/day.
- Children over 40 kg should be given the adult dose.

New restrictions on the use of codeine for cough and cold in children

Updated advice from the [MHRA](#) now recommends:

- Codeine is now **contraindicated** in children below 12 years of age. This is due to the associated risk of respiratory side effects.
- Use of codeine is **not recommended** in children and adolescents between 12 and 18 years of age who have problems with breathing.
- Current contraindications include breastfeeding mothers and patients of any age known to be CYP2D6 ultra-rapid metabolizers.

