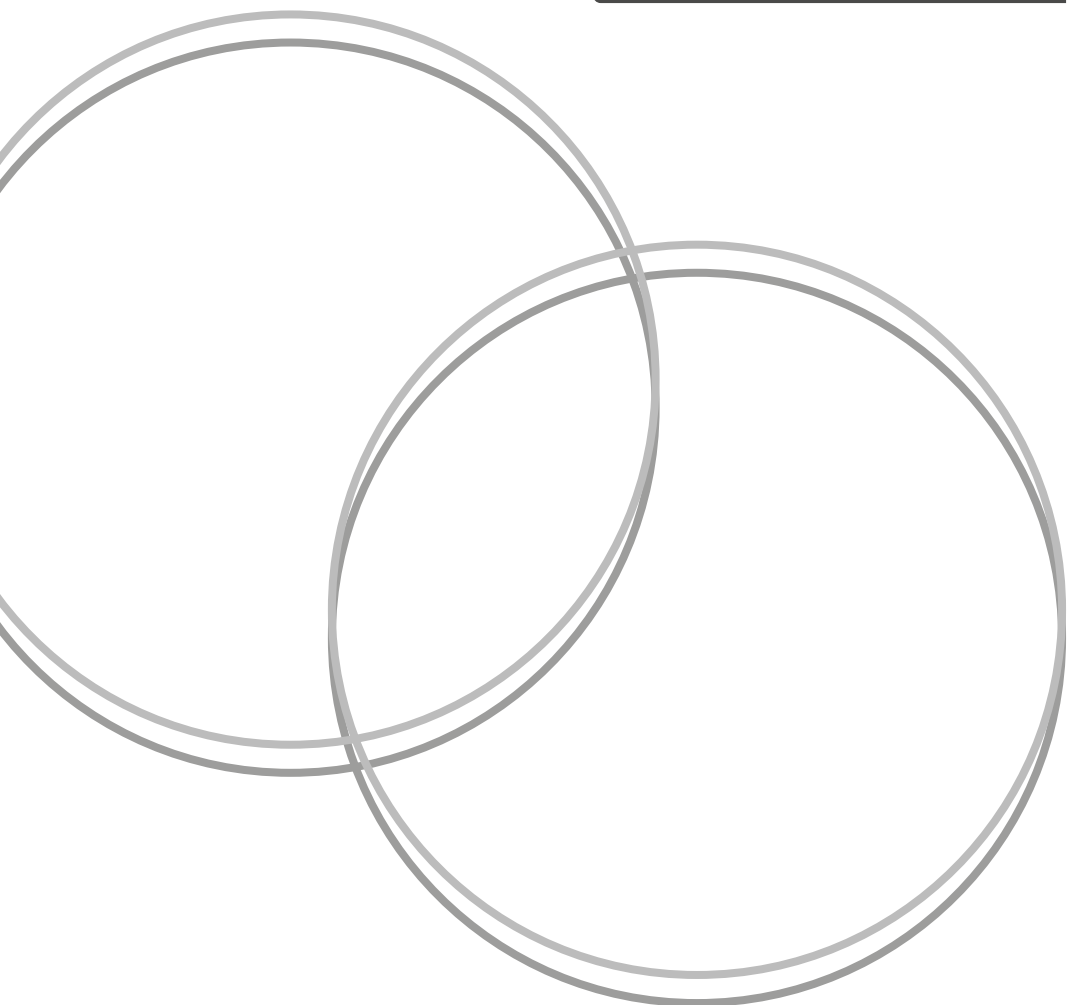




Oxford University Hospitals  
NHS Foundation Trust

# Immunisations for Children with a Bleeding Disorder

**Information for Patients**



## What is immunisation?

Immunisation involves the process of receiving vaccines which cause the body's immune system to make antibodies. Vaccines are an effective way to prevent many serious infections, as the antibodies made will recognise the infection and be ready to protect your child. For patients with a bleeding disorder, it is recommended that vaccination injections are given subcutaneously (under the skin) rather than into the muscle, to reduce the risk of bleeding.

## What is this booklet for?

This information leaflet is to support families and patients with a bleeding disorder when vaccinations are due and can be shared with your nurse or doctor. It is important that your doctor or nurse is aware that your child has a bleeding disorder, as this affects the way your child's vaccinations should be given.

### **To help minimise bleeding following immunisations, we recommend that vaccines are:**

- Given via a subcutaneous (SC) route, just under the skin, instead of into the muscle (IM)
- In the top of the thigh with a maximum of two injections in the same limb

## Common Questions

### **My doctor or nurse says the vaccine has to be given into the muscle?**

Remind the nurse or doctor that your child has a bleeding disorder and to call the Paediatric Haemophilia Team for advice before giving the vaccine.

### **My child's leg has become swollen or red?**

Often vaccines given under the skin can cause local irritation and redness. Applying a cold compress or ice pack can help relieve these symptoms. If the leg(s) are very swollen and your child is in pain, please call the Paediatric Haemophilia team for advice.

### **What treatment can I give at home after immunisations?**

- Paracetamol

If your child develops a temperature after the vaccine is given, you can give your child Paracetamol as per the dosing guidance on the packaging. You must NOT give Ibuprofen/Aspirin to children with bleeding disorders.

- Tranexamic Acid

Sometimes we may recommend that your child starts an anti-fibrinolytic medication called Tranexamic Acid. This can help control any unwanted bleeding following a vaccination. Please contact the Paediatric Haemophilia Team for further support.

### **Factor concentrates**

If your child is treated regularly with factor, then you may want to schedule their normal dose to be given on the day the vaccine is due. We do not recommend giving factor to patients who would not normally receive regular factor injections.

## For More Information:

We want you to feel reassured that all your questions are answered, if not please speak to your GP or nurse for advice on your child's vaccinations. If you have any further questions, the Paediatric Bleeding Disorders Team can be contacted as below:

### **Paediatric Haemophilia and Bleeding Disorder Nurses**

Tel: 01865 226 562

(9.00am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday)

Email: [paediatric.haemophiliaclinic@ouh.nhs.uk](mailto:paediatric.haemophiliaclinic@ouh.nhs.uk) (non-urgent only)

(9.00am to 4.00pm, Monday to Friday)

**For emergency advice or treatment outside office hours, at weekends and on Bank holidays, telephone the Oxford University Hospitals switchboard.**

Tel: 0300 304 7777

Ask to speak to the 'on-call Specialist Registrar for Haematology'.

The Specialist Registrar may give you advice over the telephone or, if your child needs treatment, they may ask them to come into Kamran's Ward, which is on Level 0 of the Children's Hospital at the John Radcliffe Hospital.

Kamran's Ward Tel: 01865 234068/9

**You may also find useful information at the following websites:**

**The Haemophilia Society**

[www.haemophilia.org.uk](http://www.haemophilia.org.uk)

The Haemophilia Society is the only national, independent charity for all people affected by bleeding disorders. The website has useful information for patients, families and schools. They organise weekends away for new families, patients with inhibitors and many other events, some which our parents and patients get involved in and find helpful.

**The World Federation of Haemophilia**

[www.wfh.org](http://www.wfh.org)

The World Federation of Haemophilia website has useful patient information on a wide range of bleeding disorders. It is useful if you are travelling as has details of haemophilia centres worldwide

**Vaccination practice in the UK**

[www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/)

**Immunisation procedures for practitioners in the UK**

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/immunisation-procedures-the-green-book-chapter-4](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immunisation-procedures-the-green-book-chapter-4)

## Further information

If you would like an interpreter, please speak to the department where you are being seen.

Please also tell them if you would like this information in another format, such as:

- Easy Read
- large print
- braille
- audio
- electronic
- another language.

We have tried to make the information in this leaflet meet your needs. If it does not meet your individual needs or situation, please speak to your healthcare team. They are happy to help.

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Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  
[www.ouh.nhs.uk/information](http://www.ouh.nhs.uk/information)



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