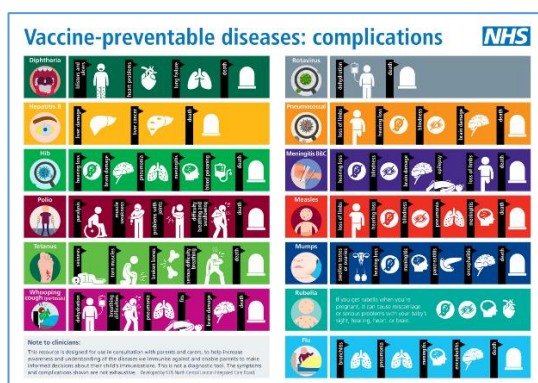
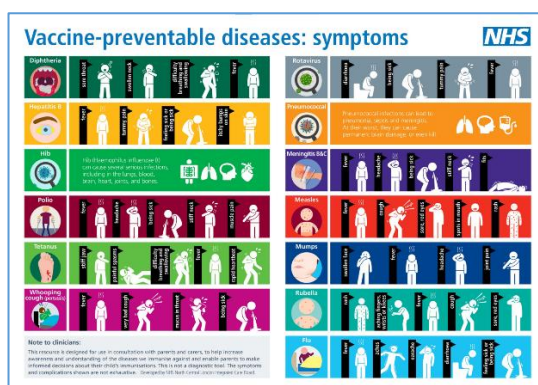


# North Central London Integrated Care Board Childhood Immunisation Resources



*NB: The symptoms and complications resource is designed for use during clinical consultations only.*

## Background

These resources were created by the North Central London Integrated Care Board (NCL ICB) as part of a strand of work aiming to increase uptake of childhood immunisations in North Central London. They were designed to support and inform quality clinician-parent engagement, in order to address barriers to low uptake. The work was led by two childhood immunisation improvement managers in the population health team in the ICB, working closely with the ICB vaccine communications team. The resources were distributed to general practice and health visiting teams in North Central London in October 2023.

## **The need**

Uptake of childhood vaccinations in NCL is below the national average, with only 69% of children having had both doses of MMR by the age of five. Uptake is lowest among our most deprived communities. This creates a high risk of a measles outbreak, which would disproportionately impact those communities and worsen health inequalities.

Working with primary care colleagues, our childhood immunisations improvement managers identified a need for a conversation aid to enable practice nurses and GPs to explain the importance of vaccinations to parents and carers who have low levels of literacy or are not fluent in English.

## **The solution**

We developed a chart showing the main symptoms and complications of the vaccine-preventable diseases on the NHS vaccination schedule. Each symptom and complication is represented by a simple stick figure.

Common symptoms are shown on one side, and potential complications, including death, on the other side. This format allows clinicians to tailor their use of the resource to each conversation. The diseases are listed in the order they are covered in the routine vaccination schedule.

To complement the chart, and to provide practices with a resource to display in public areas, we also designed a poster to show the vaccine schedule up to the age of five.

## **Development**

The design of the symptoms and complications chart was based on earlier work by NCL Immunisation Improvement Project Manager Emma Raworth, in her previous role in Norfolk and Waveney Public Health.

It was co-developed with a broad group of clinicians of widely differing backgrounds, including those working in general practice, representatives primarily from secondary care leadership on our Clinical Advisory Group, and members of our Vaccines and Immunisations Board.

Early drafts were shared with a panel of practice nurses, practice managers and GPs. It was reviewed for clinical accuracy by paediatricians including Dr David Elliman, Clinical lead for National NIPE & NBS Screening Programmes, Consultant, Great Ormond Street Hospital, Hon. Consultant in Community Child Health, Whittington Health & Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust. It was trialled for two weeks in 25 practices before the final review and approval stages.

The chart was designed by NHS Creative and printed laminated, double-sided A3. We sent 5 copies to every practice in NCL, and 14 copies to every health visiting team.

We designed the schedule poster in-house and sent copies to every practice and health visiting team with the chart. We also sent the schedule poster to antenatal clinics and borough-based public health teams in NCL, for distribution in early years settings and council-owned buildings used by young families.

Reflecting on the process of creating the symptoms and complications chart, Emma said:

"It has been really rewarding to evolve a simple concept into a differentiated and accessible resource. We hope it will provide support in clinical conversations with parents, where needed, to help explain why we vaccinate against certain diseases and open up the conversation."

Chris Caldwell, Chief Nursing Officer for NCL ICB and joint SRO for Vaccines and Immunisations for NCL ICS, said:

"I am delighted that we are now sharing these resources more widely. A lot of work went into creating them and they are providing support to healthcare professionals across North Central London. We hope that they can do the same in the rest of the country, building on the great work we all do to drive uptake of these important vaccines."

## **Impact**

We will evaluate long-term impact after the resources have been in use for several months. Early anecdotal feedback from practices is very positive.

Asha Parmar, Practice Nurse at the Barnsbury Medical Practice in Islington, said:

"I have the chart on display in my consultation room and it sometimes sparks conversations with people who are here for other things. Some of those conversations with older patients have resulted in their grandchildren being brought in to catch up on their vaccines."

"It is an excellent resource for patients who may have low literacy or limited English language skills - I have definitely found it useful for explaining things like fever and diarrhoea!"

## **Implementation tips**

The resources are designed to be professionally printed in A3 size. We recommend printing the schedule poster with a surface laminate finish and the symptoms chart with an encapsulated laminate finish for durability.

The symptoms and complications shown on the chart are not exhaustive, and are only intended to be seen during a clinical consultation where they can be explained by a health care professional.

Recommended display locations:

- Schedule poster - public areas and clinical rooms
- Symptoms and complications chart - clinical rooms only

Grace Calit, Practice Nurse in Barnet, said: "The chart is informative and helpful for explaining things to parents who don't know much about vaccine-preventable diseases, especially for those whose English is limited."

"It works well to have the chart on my desk, with the symptoms side facing up. If parents have questions about a vaccine I can show them the pictures and talk them through it. It helps parents understand why we recommend vaccination, and brings to life why vaccines are worthwhile and important."

### **Find out more**

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