

General medical questions about single vaccination

Is there any proof that the single vaccination programme is any safer than the combined MMR?

The main reason why parents are considering the choice of the single vaccine immunisation programme as opposed to the combined MMR is that, following the replacement of the original single vaccine programme with the combined MMR vaccine, a substantial increase (about fourfold) in the numbers of children developing Autism and the bowel condition called Crohns disease was later noticed to have coincided with this change of vaccine.

Whether this is cause and effect or simply a coincidence is still under discussion. Meantime many parents are choosing to revert to the single vaccination programme to avoid the possible small additional risk of Autism or Crohns if there is a cause and effect.

Choosing single vaccinations for Measles, Mumps and Rubella comprises 6 vaccinations instead of 2 for the combined MMR. Three vaccinations for the primary course, followed by a further 3 for the booster course. The booster course ensures continuing immunity through adult life. WellCare will contact you and invite you to make appointments when your child is due for booster vaccinations. (Payment for booster vaccinations is not taken until this time).

Single vaccines for Measles Mumps and Rubella are unlicensed in the UK. However, their safety and effectiveness have been proved and they are licensed in western European countries and the USA. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) allows the vaccines to be imported as they know of no grounds for objection. There is nothing to suggest that the single vaccination programme is less safe than the combined MMR vaccine and it may be that it is safer.

Is the immunity given by the single vaccines as good as that given by the combined MMR?

Yes. One injection of the combined MMR vaccine gives immunity to 90 - 95% of children and the giving of the second (booster) MMR around 3 years of age closes the gap making 99% immune to Measles, Mumps and Rubella.

Fewer studies have been done on the single vaccine schedule but there is no reason to think that the immunity is any less and whilst one small study suggested 100% of children vaccinated in the single vaccine programme were immune and another that 99% were immune after one injection, there is no proof that the immunity is any better percentage wise than with the combined MMR.

This is why we recommend the single vaccination programme is followed with a second (booster) course of single vaccines after an 18 month interval which is usually arranged to be completed by the time the child goes to school.

This second round of injections also acts to boost the immunity and help ensure the immunity lasts through adult life. This is particularly important now that the community level of immunity has fallen and it is no longer possible to rely on the herd immunity for protection. Everyone needs their own lasting immunity.

From what age and in what order to you vaccinate?

WellCare vaccinates from 13 months onwards, starting with Measles vaccine and then Rubella and Mumps.

What is the time interval between each vaccination?

WellCare offers appointments at 6 week intervals between each vaccine. All three vaccines are live vaccines and therefore need to be given at least 4 weeks apart (WHO guideline for these vaccines is 4-6 week intervals). If you prefer to extend the interval gap for your own reasons WellCare will try to accommodate your wishes.

Is it harmful to delay Mumps vaccination?

Much research has been done on the dangers of contracting Measles and Rubella and the importance of these vaccinations being given early is very well proven. The importance of Mumps vaccination is open to discussion as less research has been done on its role in preventing some cases of infertility in men. It is after the age of 8 years, with the possible start of puberty, that a Mumps infection is thought to possibly affect fertility. If Mumps is a risk to fertility in men, this is only in a very small proportion of those who catch Mumps after puberty

Who is Rubella (German Measles) harmful to?

Rubella (German Measles) can cause harm to the unborn child - the most crucial time is during the early weeks of the pregnancy often before the woman even knows that she is pregnant. A pregnant woman can catch Rubella from both boys and girls. Therefore it is important that both boys and girls are vaccinated against this disease before mixing with other children and mothers at nursery.

My child has had Rubella (German Measles) so is Rubella immunisation necessary?

Yes. Doctors still recommend Rubella immunisation in this case. This is because half of the persons diagnosed as having Rubella have, on testing, proved to have had some other virus. In the case of those who did in fact have Rubella the injection acts as an extra booster.

Does WellCare carry out immunity tests prior to giving the boosters?

At present WellCare does not routinely offer this facility. This is primarily due to the fact that we believe that a booster is necessary to help ensure continued immunity through adulthood. If the booster is not given, the child will need regular retesting to monitor the immunity level.

How long does the immunity last?

With the booster course the immunity lasts through adult life.

Can you be over-immunised with single vaccines?

No, this is because they are live vaccines and extra injections simply act as an extra booster.

What if my child is to attend for a Hib, travel vaccine or polio during the single vaccination programme?

Single Measles, Mumps and Rubella are all live vaccines.

For killed vaccines such as Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio and Hib and most travel vaccines we recommend a 7 day gap from the killed vaccine to the live single Measles, Mumps or Rubella. This is to avoid fevers that may be caused by the two types of vaccines coinciding.

Similarly we recommend a 3 week gap after live Single Measles, Mumps and Rubella to the next killed vaccine.

Single Measles, Mumps and Rubella are all live vaccines and should be at least 4 weeks separated from other live vaccines such as Yellow Fever BCG and Chickenpox vaccinations.

If you have any concerns about vaccination timings please indicate this on your booking form and a WellCare doctor will be able to advise you.

Do any vaccines contain Mercury?

None of the vaccines WellCare uses contain mercury

What guidelines does WellCare follow?

WellCare follows the guidelines in the UK Guidance on Best Practice in Vaccine Administration.

This guidance has been developed & endorsed by the Royal College of GP's, Royal College of Nursing & Practitioners & Health Visitors Association.

How are the vaccines imported into the country?

The vaccines used in the WellCare Single Vaccination Programme are imported into the country on a named patient basis as they do not have a licence in the UK.

This means that our wholesalers submit applications for vaccines on our behalf to the MHRA.

The application states the manufacturer's details and the vaccine constituents.

Our wholesalers are regularly inspected by the MHRA and have to ensure correct storage requirements and record keeping.

How are the vaccines transported and stored?

Vaccines are delivered to WellCare overnight direct from our wholesaler and placed in our clinical refrigerators, where temperatures are monitored and recorded. They are sent to WellCare General Practices around the country by a specialist cold stowage agent and placed in the WellCare consulting doctors' clinical refrigerators where they are again monitored and recorded.

UK Guidance on Best Practice in Vaccine Administration recommends that vaccines should only be out of cold storage for a maximum of 48 hours.

What are the side effects from the vaccines ?

When you attend for your consultation the WellCare doctor or nurse will give you a Record and Information Sheet about the vaccine your child is receiving at that appointment. The Sheet will have the vaccine batch number, vaccine expiry date and the site of the injection together with information about unwanted effects of the vaccine.

All vaccines can cause unwanted side effects and the vaccines given in the single vaccination programme are no different.

Early important rare side effects

All children are requested to remain in the waiting room for 10 minutes after the injection has been given. This is in case of the rare chance that there is an 'immediate' allergic reaction. An allergic reaction would require immediate medical attention. All WellCare doctors have resuscitation equipment including oxygen and adrenalin in the consulting room.

Possible other unwanted reactions to the vaccines

Rubella vaccine

About one in ten children may get a mild non-infectious case of Rubella from the vaccine. The signs usually appear between 7 and 14 days after the vaccine has been given and could include the following: rash, fever, swollen glands and less often swollen or painful joints, pins and needles or a tingling or burning sensation in the hands or feet (when in a toddler, he or she may become extra clumsy). These usually resolve in 3 to 4 days and are not harmful to healthy people.

Measles vaccine

About one in ten children may have the following:

fever, runny nose and respiratory symptoms of short duration and general skin rash starting 8 to 11 days after the vaccination and lasting a few days. Rarely lymph nodes may enlarge.

Mumps vaccine

Because of the slightly acidic pH of the vaccine, your child may complain of a stinging at the site of the injection for a short duration. Mild fever occurs occasionally a few days after the injection. Fever above 39.4°C is uncommon. Very rarely nervous system reactions have been reported 4 days to 4 weeks after the vaccine administration. A cause-effect relationship has not been established. Allergic reactions such as wheal and flare at the injection site or urticaria have been extremely rare.

All vaccines

Reports of purpura (unexplained or easy bruising) due to thrombocytopenic purpura (lowered platelets) are also extremely rare. However, if this occurs you should consult your GP and inform WellCare of your GPs opinion before you next attend in time for us to ensure that the platelet count has returned to normal.

What to do if your child experiences any of these possible unwanted reactions to the vaccines

At your consultation the WellCare doctor will discuss taking of Calpol and Ibuprofen, how to bring down your child's temperature and other general care. If you are worried about your child please call WellCare on 01225 312040 (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.45pm) and ask to speak with a WellCare doctor. If it is an emergency or outside these hours please call your own GP or NHS Direct.

Which vaccines does WellCare use?

Rubella vaccines

Manufacturer: Merck & Co
Country of origin: USA
Strain: RA27/3 attenuated strain of Rubella

Manufacturer: Aventis Pasteur MSD
Country of origin: France
Strain: RA27/3 attenuated strain of Rubella

Measles vaccine

Manufacturer: Aventis Pasteur MSD
Country of origin: France
Strain: Hyperattenuated measles virus (Schwarz)

Manufacturer: Berna Biotech (Swiss Serum & Vaccine Institute)
Country of origin: Switzerland
Strain: Hyperattenuated measles virus (Schwarz)

Manufacturer: Merck & Co
Country of origin: USA
Strain: Attenuated measles virus (Edmonston)

Mumps vaccine

Manufacturer: Merck & Co
Country of origin: USA
Strain: Jeryl-Lynn (B level strain)

Personal health questions about the single vaccination programme

My child has an egg allergy. Will this be a problem?

Allergy to eggs is not usually thought to be a problem unless the reaction has been severe with immediate (within minutes), generalised swelling and/or general rash and breathing problems. WellCare clinics carry Epipen adrenaline injections and oxygen for the immediate treatment of unexpected anaphylactic reactions. All children are asked to stay in the clinic for 10 minutes in case of an unexpected early allergic (anaphylactic) reaction.

My child has a cold, a cough or a runny nose. Will it be safe to immunise now?

If your child is just starting a cold in the last one or two days, or is running a fever above 38 degrees centigrade or, most importantly, if you as a parent think your child is unwell in him/herself then we recommend that you defer the immunisation. A runny nose or cough is not a contraindication to immunisation if the child is otherwise well. If in doubt phone WellCare on 01225 312040 (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.45pm) and ask if a doctor can discuss this. In any case when possible please let us know if you will not be attending. If at the consultation the WellCare immunising doctor considers your child unwell he/she will defer the injection.

WellCare single vaccination programme administration questions

Making Payment and Arranging Appointments

WellCare vaccinates against Measles first and then Rubella and Mumps. Boosters are given in the same order as the primary course. Boosters are paid for when you make your child's appointments for these vaccinations.

WellCare Single Vaccination Programme

This includes:

Measles, Rubella and Mumps vaccinations, consultations and individual appointment times for three vaccinations. £ 310

Primary Course Sibling Discount

WellCare offers a sibling discount of 10% for your 2nd and subsequent children that are booked for the primary course of single vaccinations for Measles, Rubella and Mumps when paid for together.

Second child and subsequent children £ 279

Booster Loyalty Discount

Booster vaccinations are recommended for all children to ensure that immunity continues through adult life. All children who attend WellCare for their Primary Course (all three only) will automatically be eligible for a Booster Loyalty Discount of 10% on all three Booster vaccines when paid for together.

How to book

Please complete the following Registration Form and return it together with either a cheque or postal orders to the value of £310 or £279 (if your child is eligible for a loyalty or sibling discount), made payable to WellCare.

Or complete the credit/debit card details on the Registration Form.

Send your completed Registration Form together with payment to WellCare, 8 Monmouth Place, Bath BA1 2AU

What happens then

On receipt of your completed Registration Form and payment WellCare will call you to arrange all three appointments. We aim to call you within 5 working days of receiving your Registration Form, when any concerns you raised will be addressed.

You will then be sent written confirmation of your child's appointment together with location directions of the WellCare clinic you will be attending.

Why do I have to pay for the appointments now? Can't I pay at my appointment?

When you book your appointments for the WellCare Single Vaccination Programme you will be given timed appointments for all three vaccinations. The WellCare consulting doctor or nurse will endeavour to see you and your child on time. In general you will have to wait no more than 10 minutes.

Both the appointment time and the vaccine have been allocated and arranged specifically for your child, which is why we take payment in advance.

What happens if I am unable to attend my appointment because my child is unwell?

WellCare regrets it is not able to make any refund of the vaccination fees where for any reason the appointment is not attended.

This is because both the vaccine and appointment are for your child only. However appointments may be re-booked at the reduced fee of £20. This fee is also non refundable.

On the rare occasions where, due to unforeseen circumstances, it is necessary, WellCare reserves the right to change the date and time of any appointment.

Do I get proof that the vaccines have been given?

The WellCare consulting doctor or nurse will enter the details in your child's health record book and will also give you an information leaflet, detailing possible side effects, batch number etc at the appointment.

Does my child's GP have to be informed?

At each vaccination you will be given a letter to give to your child's doctor, please will you ensure that the GP receives this letter to update your child's medical records.

How can I find out more about WellCare?

Please visit other areas of WellCare's website to find out more about WellCare Private General Practice and the services we offer for Men, Women and Children. You may also like to call our friendly team of staff on 01225 312040 who will be pleased to help you.

Which WellCare Private General Practice Clinics are providing the single vaccination programme?

At present WellCare offers the WellCare Single Vaccination Programme at our Private General Practice Clinics in Bath, Bristol, Cardiff, Hull, London Harley Street, Mansfield, Plymouth and Warrington (Newton le Willows).

Is WellCare registered with the Healthcare Commission?

The Healthcare Commission (HC) is the independent regulatory watchdog for the Department of Health. Its role is to monitor the provision of healthcare provided in the NHS and the private sector. The Welsh counterpart is the Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales (CSIW).

For legislative reasons not all WellCare clinics are required to be individually registered. WellCare's clinics fall into four categories

1. Individually registered with the Healthcare Commission (Bath, Bristol, London)
2. Held in NHS GP surgeries where WellCare registration is not required as they are monitored by the HC through the NHS (Hull, Warrington & Eastbourne)
3. Granted practising privileges by the consulting rooms the WellCare clinic is held in, the consulting rooms are then in turn registered with the CSIW in Cardiff and the Healthcare Commission in Mansfield
4. Operate a Hub & Spoke registration whereby the WellCare clinic is a spoke of the main WellCare clinic in Bath (Plymouth)

All WellCare clinics follow the same policies and procedures and are run from WellCare's head office in Bath.

For more details please contact our head office in Bath, 01225 312040

What does the WellCare Single Vaccination Programme offer?

WellCare offers the assurance of a private general practice company with over 25 years of private medical care experience.

WellCare consulting doctors are all NHS GP's who work privately for WellCare, mainly in their own surgeries. In some WellCare clinics a WellCare nurse may see your child. When you book your appointments you will be given a date and time to attend. Appointments are booked at 10 minute intervals.

At the consultation the WellCare consulting doctor or nurse will discuss the vaccine to be given, go through the pre-visit questionnaire, complete your child's health record book, give you an information sheet about possible after effects of the vaccination and vaccine details. You will also be given the details in a letter for you to give your child's GP so that your child's medical record can be updated.

After your child has had his or her vaccination you will be asked to remain in the waiting room for 10 minutes in the unlikely event of an immediate allergic reaction that would require immediate medical attention.

WellCare will notify you when your child's boosters are due and invite you to book the appointments at that time.

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All prices are correct at the time of publishing. However please check with WellCare at the time of booking in case there have been changes.

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Important Information

How to book an appointment at WellCare

WellCare offers an appointment based service to make your appointment.

Call 01225 312 040 Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.45pm when our appointment staff will be pleased to help you.

How to pay

Wellcare requests payment at time of making your appointment.

Ways to pay

WellCare accepts Mastercard, Visa, Switch, Cheque or Postal Orders.

Our postal address is WellCare, 8 Monmouth Place, Bath BA1 2AU

Before you attend your appointment

Your appointment will be confirmed in writing and sent to you together with a receipted invoice, location directions for the WellCare clinic and any relevant patient information relating to your consultation.

Full details of your consultation and after care will be found in the Patient Information Sheet relating to your consultation.

Single Vaccination Programme appointment cancellation

WellCare regrets it is not able to make any refund of the vaccination fees where for any reason the appointment is not attended.

This is because both the vaccine and appointment are for your child only. However appointments may be re-booked at the reduced fee of £20. This fee is also non refundable.

On the rare occasions where, due to unforeseen circumstances it is necessary, WellCare reserves the right to change the date and time of any appointment.

If you are unhappy with the service provided by WellCare

Please write to Martha Cox, Business Director, WellCare, 8 Monmouth Place, Bath BA1 2AU and if possible enclose a day time telephone number.



WellCare Single Vaccination Programme Primary Course Vaccination Booking Form



Please complete this form and return it with your payment to:
WellCare Private General Practice, 8 Monmouth Place, Bath BA1 2AU

Our staff will contact you by telephone upon receipt of this form to make your child's appointments

Your WellCare clinic

WellCare currently offers the Single Vaccination Programme at our Private General Practice clinics in the following locations: Bath, Bristol, Cardiff, Hull, London Harley Street, Mansfield, Plymouth and Warrington (Newton le Willows).

Please state your preferred location

Your child's details

Surname

First Name

Address

Postcode

Sibling's full name

Date of birth

Sibling's date of birth

Gender

Male / Female

WellCare clinic sibling attended

Patient/Guardian Details

Title:

Mr

Mrs

Miss

Other

Surname

Initials

Address (if different from above)

Postcode

Daytime Phone

Home Phone

Mobile

Email

Your child's general health:

Please answer ALL of the questions below. Has your child had any of the following:

Severe reaction (apart from a reaction at the site of injection) to previous injections? YES / NO

If 'Yes' please give details of the reaction, whether a doctor was consulted and what was done:

Allergy to any antibiotic? YES / NO

If 'Yes' then please specify the name of antibiotic(s), when and what it was given for, what happened and whether it has been given again since.

Allergy to eggs? YES / NO

If 'Yes' when was this and please give details of the reaction and whether your child has had eggs since without a problem?

Impaired or reduced immunity? YES / NO

If 'Yes' please give details including any tests and the advice you have received about this:

A history of febrile convulsions, or of cerebral (brain) injury? YES / NO

If 'Yes' please give details:

Is your child currently taking any medication? YES / NO

If 'Yes' please give details.

Do you have any relevant questions?

Please use the space below to ask any relevant questions you may have.

Please Note:

Impaired immunity, history of anaphylactoid reactions to eggs (ie: severe immediate general rash, facial swelling and breathing problems), or the antibiotic 'Neomycin' are contraindications to these vaccines.

Immunisation is not advisable if a fever is present (due to an acute infection).

Please ensure that you answer the above questions, as immunisation may not be possible due to a permanent contraindication. Failure to disclose this information now may result in you being ineligible for a refund even though your child may have a permanent contraindication to these vaccines.

Please see our Patient Information Folder for full details of Terms and Conditions, also available online at www.wellcare.co.uk.

Other vaccinations your child may have had

Please give details of other vaccinations which your child may have already had:

Diphtheria (DIP)

Tetanus (TET)

HIB

Polio

Meningitis C

Combined MMR

Other

Please detail why you have chosen to undertake your child's course of Single Vaccinations at Wellcare

Your child's GP

Dr

Address

Postcode

How did you hear about WellCare?

Please circle below how you heard about WellCare

Family / Friends

Internet

TV

Radio

JABS

GP or Health Visitor

Other (please indicate):

Local Newspaper

National Newspaper

Please indicate how easy/difficult it was to find out about the WellCare Single Vaccination Programme.

1

2

3

4

5

(please circle - 1: Very easy, 5: Difficult)

Do you have any suggestions on how we could make it easier for people to find information about the WellCare Single Vaccination Programme?

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

REFERENCE NUMBER:/...../...../.....

ADDITIONAL DETAILS:

.....
.....
.....

APPOINTMENT:

MEASLES: DAY..... DATE...../...../..... TIME..... -..... CLINIC

RUBELLA: DAY..... DATE...../...../..... TIME..... -..... CLINIC

MUMPS: DAY..... DATE...../...../..... TIME..... -..... CLINIC

Consent and disclaimer

I give consent for my child to undertake the course of injections for Measles, Mumps and Rubella at a WellCare Private General Practice Clinic.

I acknowledge that the official NHS policy for vaccination against Measles, Mumps and Rubella is the combined MMR vaccine. However, I have chosen the single vaccination programme (three separate injections) for Measles, Mumps and Rubella for my child .

I understand that the vaccines used are on a 'named patient basis' as they do not have a licence for single use in the United Kingdom and that they are to be administered by WellCare to my child

I **do / do not*** (please circle as appropriate) give my consent for WellCare to inform my child's GP of vaccinations administered by WellCare.

The medical information supplied for WellCare is true and complete and I accept it will be used by the WellCare consulting doctor or WellCare practice nurse to assist them in forming their medical opinion as to the suitability of my child for the single vaccination programme. I accept that it is my responsibility to disclose any medical information that is deemed necessary to WellCare, the WellCare consulting doctor or to the nurse. I will not hold the WellCare consulting doctor, nurse or any member of WellCare responsible for any medical problems that arise as a result of the single vaccine immunisation programme. I understand that once the appointments are made the fee is non-refundable.

I have read and agree to the Booking Terms and Conditions.

Signed: Name: Date:
parent/guardian *please print name*

Payment details

I wish to pay for the WellCare Single Vaccination Programme consisting of Measles, Mumps and Rubella Vaccinations for my child at a cost of:

£310 (my child is new to the WellCare Single Vaccination Programme)

£279 (sibling attended for the WellCare Single Vaccination Programme)

Payment can be made by the following methods, please indicate your choice:

VISA MASTERCARD SWITCH CHEQUE POSTAL ORDERS

If paying by cheque or postal orders, please make payable to "WELLCARE" and write the full name of your child on the reverse. If paying by card, please complete the following details:

Debit/Credit Card Number: / / / Expiry Date: /

or Switch Card Number:

Issue Number: Valid From Date: / Expiry Date: /

Cardholder's Name:

Cardholder's Address: (if different from child's address on cover page)