

PRACTICAL ISSUES

- 1.** In advance of any national agreement and as per the guidance above, practices are advised to respond to appropriate need or requests from patients. Focus on the at risk group as identified in yesterday's letter by the CMO, i.e. 10-16 year olds who have previously not been immunised or have received an incomplete course of the MMR vaccine. Patients under the age of 10 or over the age of 16 who request the vaccine should be offered it, but there is no need for practices to actively identify and call those patients in for vaccination.
- 2.** Plan for increased demand of the MMR vaccine - do a search on your clinical system to identify all the under 16's who have not been vaccinated or have had an incomplete course of MMR. Even though the at risk group is currently 10 to 16 year olds, it would be sensible to search for all your under 16's as it is likely that there will be additional demand across these age groups. Start planning for meeting that potential demand by checking your vaccine stocks, staff levels and appointment availability.
- 3.** Ensure your reception staff know where to look in the clinical records to quickly identify what immunisations patients have had. This will help with telephone queries from patients or parents calling to check whether their children have had the necessary immunisations.
- 4.** Keep a separate detailed record of all MMR immunisations carried out. At this moment in time it is not clear whether practices will be able to claim retrospectively for vaccinations given prior to the implementation of an MMR catch up scheme. If it is possible to claim retrospectively, you will be able to do that easily if detailed vaccination records are readily available.