



25th January 2018

To the members of the Joint Committee on Vaccination,

We are writing in response to the recent JCVI consultation about the changes to the pneumococcal schedule in the UK.

We support the submissions made to the JCVI by the Meningitis Research Foundation (MRF), Meningitis Now and the UK Sepsis Trust (UKST) as members of the Confederation of Meningitis Organisations (CoMO) and as leading groups in the UK with an interest in the disease.

We would like to echo the concerns raised by these groups and ask what measures are in place in the event that there is an increase in cases of pneumococcal disease. We would also like to know if a threshold has been established to trigger these measures.

In addition to the three organisations already mentioned, CoMO represents a further 50 groups around the world. On behalf of these organisations we ask the JCVI to consider the global perspective and how this decision may influence global policy. The UK is acknowledged to be a world leader in vaccination, with an exceptional quality of surveillance and where the infant pneumococcal programme has been highly successful so far. In light of this, we ask that the JCVI acknowledge that it could be potentially detrimental for other countries to follow the example of the UK as this could lead to unnecessary loss of lives and disability.

We ask that the JCVI comment to state that such changes should not be made elsewhere without good quality local data to support them and without an established successful programme and surveillance system.

We request that the JCVI considers these points and responds to the issues raised.

Yours sincerely,

Samantha Nye
Executive Director
Confederation of Meningitis Organisations