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Mae Brechu yn achub bywydau
Vaccination saves lives

Vaccines and porcine gelatine

This leaflet describes how and why porcine gelatine is used in vaccines

The issue of using porcine (pork) gelatine in some vaccines has raised concerns among some groups.

This leaflet provides information about vaccines that contain this product and the alternatives that may be available.

What is gelatine?

Gelatine is a substance found in animal collagen. Collagen is a protein that helps build tendons, ligaments, bones and cartilage. Porcine gelatine comes from collagen in pigs. Strict hygiene and safety laws must be met when producing gelatine that is used in medicines.

Why is porcine gelatine used in vaccines?

Gelatine is a stabiliser used in certain forms of medicine, such as capsules and vaccines. Stabilisers make sure vaccines are safe and effective while they are being stored. Porcine gelatine is different to that used in foods, as it has been made pure and turned into tiny particles.

Why can't vaccines be made with other stabilisers or other types of gelatine?

When making a new vaccine, strict testing is carried out to make sure the vaccine is safe and effective. Vaccine manufacturers test a wide range of stabilisers so they can choose the best one. This can often take many years of experiments and clinical studies. Once a stabiliser is chosen, it is often not changed as the testing process would have to be repeated.

This means that it is unlikely for gelatine to be removed from current vaccines, as it is a key ingredient.

Which vaccines contain porcine gelatine?

In the UK routine immunisation programme, the following vaccines contain porcine gelatine.

- Fluenz, a nasal spray vaccine that protects children against flu.
- MMR VaxPro, a vaccine that protects against measles, mumps and rubella.

What is the view of the faith communities?

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) have consulted the Kashrus and Medicines Information Service, who said: 'It should be noted that according to Jewish laws, there is no problem with porcine or other animal derived ingredients in non-oral products. This includes vaccines, including those administered via the nose, injections, suppositories, creams and ointments.'



If you do not want to have the MMR vaccine containing porcine gelatine, ask your GP practice nurse for the Priorix vaccine. A full course of two doses will protect against measles, mumps and

the advantages and disadvantages. making a decision, consider the evidence about child should be vaccinated is yours. When The final decision about whether you or your

What if I don't want myself or my children to have vaccines containing porcine gelatine?

Fluenz
The Fluenz nasal spray vaccine is the best flu vaccine for children and young people. But flu injections do not contain gelatine, so if you would prefer your child to have the injection instead, contact their GP surgery so they don't miss out.

MMR
In the UK we have two types of MMR vaccine – MMR VaxPro and Priorix. Priorix does not contain gelatine and is as safe and effective as MMR VaxPro.

Are there any suitable alternatives to these vaccines?

medicine is life-saving. other options. They can also be taken when the names may be taken when there are no gelatine to be forbidden. These consider medicines containing Jewish communities. Some that there is diversity within any other animal. means that it is used in they

rubella. Priorix may need to be ordered, so check with your GP surgery before your appointment. The nasal spray vaccine is considered the most effective flu vaccination for children. However, it contains porcine gelatine. If you decide you do not want your child to have it, they can have the flu vaccine by injection instead. This does not contain porcine gelatine. You would need to contact your GP surgery to make an appointment for this. The information in this leaflet is correct at the time of publication. For the most up-to-date information, please visit phw.nhs.wales/vaccines

Further information

You can find more information on vaccines offered in Wales at: phw.nhs.wales/vaccines
To see the routine immunisation schedules for Wales, visit: phw.nhs.wales/CompleteSchedule

To find out more about any of the vaccines mentioned in this leaflet, including their contents and possible side effects, go to medicines.org.uk/emc (external site). Enter the name of the vaccine in the search box. You can also see the patient leaflet online.

