

Surveillance of Haemolytic Uraemic Syndrome (HUS) Beginning October 2011

Surveillance of Haemolytic Uraemic Syndrome in children under the age of 16 years in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland

Haemolytic Uraemic Syndrome (HUS) is a rare, but occasionally fatal, condition that can develop after a gastrointestinal infection by a Verocytotoxin-producing strain of *Escherichia coli* (VTEC). The peak of incidence is in children (<5 years of age) who are the most susceptible age group. A previous BPSU study was conducted between 1997 and 2001 when there were 413 cases reported, 330 of whom were VTEC related.

This study aims to further the understanding of the epidemiology of HUS in the UK and Ireland. This study aims to measure the incidence of HUS in the UK and Ireland, and describe clinical and demographic features. By comparing the results from this study to that of the previous BPSU study any changes in this epidemiology will be apparent. The one year follow up will provide useful information on the outcomes of illness. By linking cases reported through this study to the national surveillance system for VTEC, we will seek to identify factors associated with an increased risk of developing HUS, in the hope that we might, in the future, be in a position to prevent at risk children from developing HUS after a VTEC infection.

BPSU surveillance will be undertaken for 13 months, commencing in October 2011. A follow-up questionnaire will be issued one year after the case is reported.

Case definition:

Any child up to and including 15 years of age who, during the past month, has been diagnosed with haemolytic uraemic syndrome in the UK or Republic of Ireland.

REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS

England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland: Please report any child *up to and including* 15 years of age that you have seen for the first time in the past month and who has been diagnosed with HUS.

Please do not report children who have:

- septicaemia,
- malignant hypertension
- chronic uraemia
- primary vascular disease

If in doubt, please report the child.

Scotland: Please report cases of HUS to Health Protection Scotland as normal. Data from the Health Protection Scotland HUS/TMA Enhanced Surveillance will be used in this study.

Website: <http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/bpsu/hus>

FUNDING: Health Protection Agency

ETHICAL APPROVAL: This study has been approved by London – Camberwell St Giles REC (Ref: 11/LO/1412). As of October 2010, HUS is a statutory reportable condition and this study falls under the existing Health Protection Agency permissions under the Section 251 of the NHS Act 2006.

FURTHER INFORMATION: If you would like any advice regarding the eligibility of a particular case for inclusion in the study please contact: Naomi Launder: *email* naomi.launders@hpa.org.uk *telephone* 020 8327 6193