



Public Health
England



BPSU Surveillance of Group B streptococcal disease in infants < 90 days of age Commences in April 2014

Group B Streptococcus (GBS) is the most common cause of serious bacterial infections in the first week of life and of meningitis in the first three months of life. Approximately 10% of babies with GBS disease will die and neurodisability occurs in up to 50% of survivors of GBS meningitis. Our previous BPSU study (2000-2001) remains the only national UK and Ireland enhanced surveillance study.

Early onset GBS disease may be prevented by antibiotics given intravenously to the mother during labour; national guidelines currently recommend this for women with certain risk factors. Late onset disease however is not currently preventable. A vaccine against GBS has been developed and is currently being tested in pregnant women. We therefore need to collect the best available evidence in order to assess the impact of current prevention guidelines as well as providing the baseline for a GBS vaccine program.

The study is being led by St. George's, University of London and Public Health England. The information will be collected and collated on a PHE web based surveillance system.

Duration: BPSU surveillance will be undertaken for 13 months, commencing in April 2014.

Case definition: Any case of invasive group B streptococcus (GBS grown from a sterile site) in an infant of less than 90 days of age.

Reporting Instructions:

Paediatricians - Please report any baby seen in the last month who meets the case definition in the UK or the Republic of Ireland from April 2014.

Microbiologists – Please report GBS cases as normal and submit GBS isolates to the reference laboratory.

Website: www.rcpch.ac.uk/bpsu/GBS

Funding: Meningitis Now

Ethical approval: This study has been approved by NRES Committee – South East Coast – Brighton and Sussex REC (ref: 13/LO/1912). Public Health England has approval under Section 251 of the NHS Act 2006 to process confidential patient information for public health purposes. See [The Health Service \(Control of Patient Information\) Regulations 2002](#).

Further information:

If you would like any advice regarding the eligibility of a particular case for inclusion in the study please contact:

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