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An Advisory Committee Statement (ACS)
National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI)[†]

UPDATE ON THE USE OF QUADRIVALENT CONJUGATE MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINES

Preamble

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) provides the Public Health Agency of Canada with ongoing and timely medical, scientific and public health advice relating to immunization. The Public Health Agency of Canada acknowledges that the advice and recommendations set out in this statement are based upon the best current available scientific knowledge and is disseminating this document for information purposes. People administering the vaccine should also be aware of the contents of the relevant product monograph(s). Recommendations for use and other information set out herein may differ from that set out in the product monograph(s) of the Canadian manufacturer(s) of the vaccine(s). Manufacturer(s) have sought approval of the vaccine(s) and provided evidence as to its safety and efficacy only when it is used in accordance with the product monographs. NACI members and liaison members conduct themselves within the context of the Public Health Agency of Canada's Policy on Conflict of Interest, including yearly declaration of potential conflict of interest.

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Summary Table of Information Contained in this NACI Statement

The following table highlights key information for immunization providers.

Please refer to the remainder of the statement for details.

TABLE 1: Summary of information contained in this NACI Statement

1. What
<p>What is meningococcal disease?</p> <p>Meningococcal disease usually presents as an acute febrile illness with rapid onset and features of meningitis or septicemia (meningococemia), or both, and a characteristic non-blanching rash. Overall mortality is approximately 10%, and 10–20% of survivors have long term sequelae which include hearing loss, neurologic disabilities, and digit or limb amputations. In 2007, 229 cases of meningococcal disease were reported in Canada, the majority (131 cases) was serogroup B, for which the highest rates occur in infants. There is currently no vaccine against serogroup B disease in Canada. Rates of serogroup C meningococcal disease have decreased due to vaccination programs, and in 2007, the number of serogroup Y cases slightly exceeded the number of serogroup C cases (30 serogroup C cases and 35 serogroup Y cases). The median age for serogroup Y disease (46 years) is older than for serogroups C and W135. Very little serogroup A disease occurs in Canada.</p>
<p>What are meningococcal conjugate vaccines?</p> <p>Monovalent meningococcal C conjugate vaccines have been available in Canada since 2001. A quadrivalent (serogroups A, C, Y and W135) meningococcal vaccine conjugated to diphtheria toxoid (Menactra™ – sanofi pasteur) was authorized for use in 2006 for individuals 2 to 55 years of age. A second quadrivalent conjugate meningococcal vaccine (Menveo™ – Novartis Vaccines Inc.) was authorized for use in May 2010 for individuals 11–55 years of age and in June 2011 the authorization was extended to include 2–10 year olds. Menveo™ contains serogroups A (10 µg), C (5 µg), W135 (5 µg) and Y (5 µg), with each serogroup individually conjugated to CRM₁₉₇, a variant protein of diphtheria toxin, which serves as a carrier protein. This statement provides information regarding the immunogenicity, safety and recommended uses of this new vaccine. The statement also provides updated effectiveness and safety information about Menactra™ and information about its simultaneous use with other adolescent vaccines.</p>
2. Who
<p>Who is immunized?</p> <p>Menveo™ is authorized for use in people 2–55 years of age. Its use may also be considered in individuals ≥ 56 years of age. Immunogenicity and safety data indicate that Menveo™ may be used in infants as young as 2 months of age although it is not currently authorized for use in this age group.</p>
<p>This NACI statement recommends the use of conjugate meningococcal vaccines as follows:</p>
<p>1. Adolescents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to routine meningococcal C conjugate vaccine for infants and/or young children, NACI recommends a routine conjugate meningococcal vaccination for adolescents at around 12 years of age. If a quadrivalent conjugate product is chosen for this adolescent dose, either Menactra™ or Menveo™ may be used. (<i>NACI Recommendation Grade B</i>).
<p>2. High-Risk Individuals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NACI recommends a conjugate quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine for high risk individuals. (<i>NACI Recommendation Grade B</i>): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Persons with anatomic or functional asplenia (including sickle cell disease); Persons who have complement, properdin, factor D or primary antibody deficiencies; Persons with acquired complement deficiency (eg. those receiving eculizumab (Soliris™)); Travellers when meningococcal vaccine is recommended (meningitis belt of Sub-Saharan Africa) or required (pilgrims to the Hajj in Mecca); Research, industrial and clinical laboratory personnel who are routinely exposed to <i>N. meningitidis</i>; and Military personnel during recruit training and on certain deployments NACI also suggests consideration of a quadrivalent conjugate meningococcal vaccine for individuals with HIV. For high risk individuals 2 years of age and older, use either Menactra™ or Menveo™ (<i>NACI Recommendation Grade B</i>). Two doses at least 8 weeks apart are recommended for those in the above high risk group due to underlying medical conditions (asplenia; complement, properdin, factor D or primary antibody deficiencies; or HIV). For those at ongoing risk due to underlying medical conditions or exposure, booster doses are recommended as outlined in this statement. For high risk individuals less than 2 years of age, based on available published data, the quadrivalent conjugate meningococcal vaccine that should be used is Menveo™ (<i>NACI Recommendation Grade B</i>). Possible schedules are provided in this statement.

- For those who only receive one dose of quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine (e.g. Travellers) and who are 2 to 10 years of age, routine monovalent meningococcal C conjugate vaccine should already have been administered and if not previously given, should also be administered at least one month after the quadrivalent conjugate vaccine.

3. Close contacts and outbreaks:

- **Serogroup C:**
 - For those 11 years of age and older, use either a monovalent conjugate C vaccine or one of the available quadrivalent conjugate meningococcal vaccines.
 - For those less than 11 years of age, use a monovalent meningococcal C conjugate product (*NACI Recommendation Grade A*).
- **Serogroups A, W135, and Y:**
 - Use a quadrivalent conjugate meningococcal vaccine.
 - For those 2 years of age and older, use either Menactra™ or Menveo™ (*NACI Recommendation Grade A*).
 - For children less than 2 years of age, use only Menveo™ (*NACI Recommendation Grade B*). Possible schedules for infants and young children are provided in this statement.

For those previously vaccinated who are now close contacts or during outbreaks, revaccination as follows is recommended, based on expert opinion:

- Those previously vaccinated with a serogroup that differs from the index case or outbreak strain should be vaccinated immediately with the appropriate vaccine (as outlined above);
- Those previously vaccinated with a serogroup that is the same as the index case or outbreak strain should be revaccinated with the appropriate vaccine (as outlined above):
 - If they were less than 1 year of age at last meningococcal vaccination and more than 4 weeks have passed since their last meningococcal vaccine;
 - If they have an underlying medical condition that puts them at risk for meningococcal disease and more than 4 weeks have passed since their last meningococcal vaccine;
 - If more than a **year** has passed since their last meningococcal vaccine if they were not less than 1 year of age at the time of their last meningococcal vaccination and if they have no underlying medical condition that puts them at risk for meningococcal disease.

3. How

Administration of Menveo™:

- For those 2–55 years of age, Menveo™ is given as 0.5 ml IM dose.
- The product is reconstituted by mixing the liquid (containing serogroups C, W135, and Y) with the lyophilized powder (containing serogroup A). The reconstituted product should be used immediately, but may be held at or below 25 °C for up to 2 hours.

Menveo™ contraindications:

A history of anaphylaxis to a previous dose of meningococcal vaccine, to any vaccine that contains diphtheria toxoid or CRM₁₉₇, or to any other component of Menveo™.

Menveo™ precautions:

Menveo™ has not been studied in pregnancy; its use may be considered when the benefits outweigh the risks. A past history of GBS is not considered a need for caution when administering Menactra™ or Menveo™. An acute febrile illness which is severe warrants deferral until symptoms resolve.

Co-administration with other vaccines:

Menactra™ or Menveo™ may be given concomitantly with other age appropriate adolescent and adult vaccines. A lower antibody response to pertussis antigens was noted when Tdap was co-administered with Menveo™; the highest immunological response to pertussis antigens was achieved when Tdap was given one month after Menveo™. Menveo™ has been studied with many routine paediatric vaccines and no immunological interference has been observed. Menveo™ co-administration with the 13-valent conjugate pneumococcal vaccine requires further study.

Re-vaccination:

For high risk individuals who remain at ongoing or recurring risk of exposure to meningococcal disease (research, industrial and clinical laboratory personnel who are potentially routinely exposed to *N. meningitidis*; or traveller who remain in or revisit areas where meningococcal vaccine is recommended); or high risk individuals with underlying medical conditions (asplenia; complement, properdin, factor D or primary antibody deficiencies; or HIV), the following re-vaccination schedule is recommended by NACI, based on expert opinion:

- For those vaccinated at 6 years of age and under: provide a booster dose 3–5 years after the last dose, followed by every 5 years.
- For those vaccinated at 7 years of age and older: provide a booster dose 5 years after the last dose, followed by every 5 years.
- Travellers to Hajj should check recommendations for re-vaccination at: <http://www.hajjinformation.com/main/p3001.htm> as more frequent re-vaccination may be required.

A quadrivalent conjugate meningococcal vaccine should be used for re-vaccination of the above groups and based on expert opinion, either Men-C-ACYW-135- D (Menactra™) or Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) can be used, regardless of what meningococcal vaccine was used for the initial vaccination.

See above for revaccination of close contacts or during outbreaks.

4. Why

“Counseling Points” for providers to emphasize with clients when discussing these recommendations

IMD mortality is approximately 10%. Of IMD survivors, 10% to 20% have long term sequelae which include hearing loss, neurologic disabilities, and digit or limb amputations. Therefore, immunization against vaccine preventable IMD serogroups is important for those at higher risk.

- Menactra™ and Menveo™ are currently authorized for use in those 2–55 years of age. They have been shown to be immunogenic in clinical trials for individuals 2–55 years of age, with one study of Menveo™ extending to 65 years of age.
- Immunogenicity studies suggest that Menveo™ induces a good response in young children and infants, with several schedules being assessed.
- Both Menactra™ and Menveo™ have been studied with several age-appropriate vaccines given at the same time.

A study in the US among those primarily 11 to 18 years of age indicates that Menactra™ has an effectiveness of approximately 80–85% within 3 to 4 years of administration. Preliminary results from a case control study of Menactra™ found it to be approximately 78% effective, with effectiveness decreasing over time up to 5 years after administration. There is currently no effectiveness data for Menveo™ but post-licensure data may become available in the future.

No significant safety concerns were found with regard to Menactra™ and Menveo™ in clinical trials. Two recent studies in the United States have not found any association between Menactra™ and Guillain-Barré Syndrome.

I. Introduction

This statement will supplement previous conjugate meningococcal vaccine statements⁽¹⁾⁻⁽⁵⁾ which have outlined the use of monovalent meningococcal C conjugate vaccines and the only previously available quadrivalent conjugate meningococcal vaccine, Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™). This statement provides information and recommendations for use of a second quadrivalent conjugate vaccine against meningococcal disease, Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) produced by Novartis Vaccines Inc. which was authorized for use in Canada in May 2010 for individuals aged 11 to 55 years, and extended to include 2–10 year olds in June 2011.

This statement will:

- Review existing National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommendations on the use of conjugate meningococcal vaccines;
- Update the epidemiology of meningococcal disease in Canada by providing data to 2007, which includes one additional year of data compared to the previous NACI statement⁽⁵⁾;
- Provide an update on the available conjugate meningococcal vaccines and the vaccination schedules used in Canada;
- Describe indicators of immunogenicity for invasive meningococcal disease (IMD);
- Provide information and recommendations for use of the newly authorized quadrivalent conjugate meningococcal vaccine, Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™);
- Provide updated safety information and information regarding the concomitant use of Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™) with other vaccines;
- Recommend two or more doses of quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine, dependent on age, for those at high risk for meningococcal disease due to underlying medical conditions; and
- Recommend re-vaccination with a quadrivalent conjugate meningococcal vaccine for people at ongoing risk due to underlying medical conditions, potential ongoing or recurring exposure, or who are close contacts of a case of IMD or during an outbreak.

I.1 OVERVIEW OF PAST NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE IMMUNIZATION (NACI) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONJUGATE MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINES

Since 2001, NACI has recommended the use of a meningococcal C conjugate vaccine for infants (i.e., children < 1 year of age), children from 1–4 years of age, adolescents and young adults. NACI recommended the vaccine be considered for children ≥ 5 years of age who have not yet reached adolescence. Meningococcal C conjugate vaccine was also recommended for close contacts of cases of invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) caused by serogroup C *Neisseria meningitidis* and to control outbreaks of serogroup C IMD. It could be considered, in addition to unconjugated polysaccharide quadrivalent vaccine, for others at high risk for meningococcal disease.⁽¹⁾

In May 2007, NACI recommended the use of quadrivalent conjugate meningococcal vaccine for serogroups A, C, W135 and Y (Men-C-ACYW-135-D Menactra™– sanofi pasteur) for immunization of persons 2–55 years of age in the following high-risk groups:

- Persons with anatomic or functional asplenia;
- Persons who have complement, properdin, or factor D deficiencies;
- Travellers when meningococcal vaccine is indicated or required, including pilgrims to the Hajj in Mecca;
- Research, industrial and clinical laboratory personnel who are routinely exposed to *N. meningitidis*; and
- Military recruits.

In addition, the vaccine was recommended for close contacts of persons with IMD caused by serogroups A, W135, or Y and for the control of outbreaks caused by these serogroups. The monovalent meningococcal C conjugate vaccine was recommended for close contacts of cases of serogroup C IMD and to control outbreaks caused by serogroup C IMD. NACI also stated that the quadrivalent conjugate meningococcal vaccine could be considered for high-risk individuals, as defined above, who are ≥ 56 years of age and also for individuals with HIV. For routine immunization of adolescents 11–24 years of age, NACI recommended use of a meningococcal C conjugate vaccine unless local epidemiology warranted the use of the quadrivalent conjugate meningococcal vaccine.⁽³⁾

In November 2007, NACI recommended that if meningococcal C conjugate vaccine is given to infants < 12 months of age, a booster dose should be given in the second year of life (from 12 to 23 months of age). This replaced NACI's previous recommendation for infants that stated that one dose of a primary infant immunization series of meningococcal C conjugate vaccine be given after 5 months of age.⁽⁴⁾

In its statement published in April 2009, NACI recommended the addition of a routine adolescent dose of conjugate meningococcal vaccine, optimally at 12 years of age.⁽⁵⁾ This dose was in addition to any infant or toddler meningococcal

conjugate vaccinations. The choice of vaccine could be either a monovalent meningococcal C conjugate vaccine or the quadrivalent conjugate meningococcal vaccine. It was recommended that the choice of product be determined by provinces / territories based on their burden of illness from serogroups A, Y and W135, cost and other programmatic considerations. The April 2009 statement also expanded the list of individuals considered at high risk for IMD by recommending that persons with primary antibody deficiencies receive the quadrivalent conjugate meningococcal vaccine.

II. Methods

NACI reviewed the burden of illness of meningococcal disease by serogroup and the safety and immunogenicity of the newly authorized Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) vaccine, vaccine schedules in Canada, and other aspects of the overall immunization strategy. The knowledge synthesis was performed by the Meningococcal Working Group. Following critical appraisal of individual studies, a summary table (Table 8) with ratings of the quality of the evidence using NACI's methodological hierarchy (outlined in Table 9, 10 and 11) was prepared, and proposed recommendations for vaccine

use developed. The Working Group Chair presented the evidence and proposed recommendations to NACI on February 2 and June 2, 2010. Following thorough review of the evidence and consultation, NACI voted on specific recommendations. The description of relevant considerations, rationale for specific decisions, and knowledge gaps are described in the text. The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) maintains documentation of these processes throughout knowledge synthesis and recommendation development.

III. Epidemiology of invasive meningococcal disease in Canada

Epidemiological data for the burden of invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) in Canada has previously been reviewed.⁽⁵⁾ One additional year of data, 2007, has been included in the figure and tables provided below which summarize Canadian epidemiological data on IMD.

Figure 1 shows IMD trends over the past ten years (1998–2007). The introduction of paediatric meningococcal C programs beginning in 2001 in Canada appears to have been associated with a decline in the incidence of IMD caused by serogroup C.⁽⁶⁾⁻⁽⁸⁾ In contrast, there have been steady rates of IMD caused by serogroups A, Y, W-135, with some year to year fluctuation. From 2004 to 2007 there has been a progressive increase in rates of serogroup B IMD. Since the decline in serogroup C cases, serogroup B has become the most common IMD serogroup to affect Canadians. Currently there is no vaccine available in Canada to prevent serogroup B disease.

Table 2 provides data, by serogroup, indicating the number and rates of IMD cases for 2007 as well as 10 year averages;

the 10 year average median ages and case fatality rates by serogroup are also outlined. The numbers of cases of serogroup C IMD have fallen to their lowest level in the past 10 years such that in 2007, reported cases of serogroup Y disease slightly exceeded cases of serogroup C disease.

Table 3 provides information on the number and rates of IMD cases by serogroup for all provinces and territories in 2007. Table 4 provides similar data averaged over the 10-year period from 1998 to 2007. These tables indicate that Quebec has notably higher rates of serogroup B disease compared to other provinces and territories.

Table 5 provides numbers and rates of IMD cases by age group and serogroup for 2007. The incidence of IMD is highest in infants less than one year of age with an incidence rate of 6.94 per 100 000 in 2007, the majority of which is due to serogroup B disease. The tendency for serogroup Y to occur at older ages is also evident in Table 5.

FIGURE 1: Incidence rates of invasive meningococcal disease by serogroup and year, 1998–2007.⁽⁹⁾

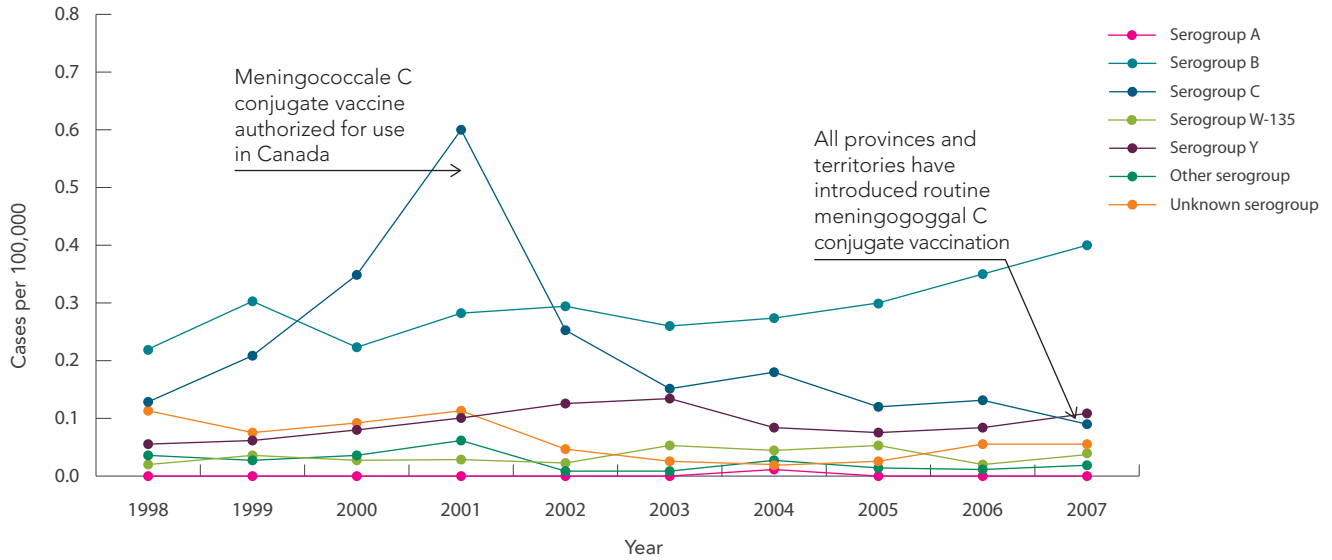


TABLE 2: Summary of epidemiology of invasive meningococcal disease in Canada in 2007 and between 1998 and 2007 by serogroup.⁽⁹⁾

Serogroup	2007		1998–2007			
	Number of cases	Incidence (IMD cases/100 000 population)	Average annual number of cases (range)	Average annual incidence (IMD cases/100 000 population)	Median age in years	Case fatality rate*
A	0	0.00	0.4 (0–3)	0.00	62	0.00
B	131	0.40	91.5 (65–131)	0.29	16	5.36
C	30	0.09	68.9 (30–182)	0.22	20	13.79
Y	35	0.11	28.2 (17–41)	0.09	46	5.65
W135	13	0.04	10.6 (5–17)	0.03	23	8.49

* Please note that the percentage of cases with missing outcome information for serogroups A, B, C, Y, and W-135 were 20%, 49%, 42%, 56%, and 57% respectively. Also note that in 2007, there were 4 cases of other serogroups and 16 cases where the serogroup was unknown.

TABLE 3: Invasive meningococcal disease incidence per 100,000 population and number of cases, by serogroup and province/territory, 2007⁽⁹⁾

Province/ Territory	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	YK	NT	NU	Total
Incidence (Number of cases)	0.70 (30)	0.54 (19)	0.70 (7)	0.34 (4)	0.48 (62)	1.18 (91)	0.54 (4)	0.43 (4)	0.72 (1)	1.38 (7)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0.70 (229)
Serogroup A	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Serogroup B	0.26 (11)	0.31 (11)	0.50 (5)	0.08 (1)	0.23 (30)	0.86 (66)	0.13 (1)	0.32 (3)	0 (0)	0.59 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0.40 (131)
Serogroup C	0.16 (7)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0.09 (11)	0.12 (9)	0.27 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0.20 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0.9 (30)
Serogroup Y	0.19 (8)	0.09 (3)	0.2 (2)	0.17 (2)	0.12 (15)	0.07 (5)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0.11 (35)
Serogroup W-135	0.05 (2)	0.06 (2)	0 (0)	0.08 (1)	0.02 (3)	0.07 (5)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0.04 (13)
Other Serogroups	0 (0)	0.06 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0.01 (1)	0.01 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0.01 (4)
Unknown Serogroup	0.05 (2)	0.03 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0.02 (2)	0.05 (5)	0.13 (1)	0.11 (1)	0.72 (1)	0.59 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0.04 (16)

TABLE 4: Average annual invasive meningococcal disease incidence per 100,000 population and number of cases, by serogroup and province/territory, 1998–2007⁽⁹⁾

Province/ Territory	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	YK	NT	NU	Canada
Average incidence (Average number of cases)	0.76 (31.1)	0.95 (29.5)	0.42 (4.2)	0.67 (7.8)	0.57 (68)	0.90 (67.5)	0.73 (5.5)	0.49 (4.6)	0.29 (0.4)	0.92 (4.8)	0.32 (0.1)	1.17 (0.5)	1.36 (0.4)	0.71 (224.4)
Serogroup A	0.01 (0.2)	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	0.002 (0.2)	0.001 (0.1)	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	0.002 (0.5)
Serogroup B	0.25 (10.4)	0.22 (7)	0.21 (2.1)	0.23 (2.6)	0.18 (22.1)	0.52 (39.4)	0.43 (3.2)	0.25 (2.3)	0.07 (0.1)	0.35 (1.8)	0 (0)	0.23 (0.1)	1.36 (0.4)	0.29 (91.5)
Serogroup C	0.28 (11.6)	0.55 (16.8)	0.08 (0.8)	0.18 (2.1)	0.15 (18.1)	0.23 (17.2)	0.12 (0.9)	0.04 (0.4)	0 (0)	0.13 (0.7)	0.32 (0.1)	0.48 (0.2)	0.00 (0)	0.22 (68.9)
Serogroup Y	0.12 (4.8)	0.07 (2.2)	0.08 (0.8)	0.10 (1.2)	0.10 (12.1)	0.07 (4.9)	0.09 (0.7)	0.10 (0.9)	0.07 (0.1)	0.10 (0.5)	0 (0)	0.23 (0.1)	0.00 (0)	0.09 (28.3)
Serogroup W-135	0.04 (1.5)	0.02 (0.7)	0.02 (0.2)	0.03 (0.4)	0.05 (5.6)	0.02 (1.8)	0.04 (0.3)	0.01 (0.1)	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	0.03 (10.6)
Other Serogroups	0.01 (0.2)	0.02 (0.7)	0.00 (0)	0.01 (0.1)	0.04 (4.9)	0.01 (0.6)	0.03 (0.2)	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	0.04 (0.2)	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	0.02 (6.9)
Unknown Serogroup	0.06 (2.4)	0.07 (2.1)	0.03 (0.3)	0.12 (1.4)	0.04 (5)	0.05 (3.5)	0.03 (0.2)	0.10 (0.9)	0.15 (0.2)	0.31 (1.6)	0.00 (0)	0.23 (0.1)	0.00 (0)	0.06 (17.7)

TABLE 5: Invasive meningococcal disease Incidence per 100,000 population in Canada by serogroup and age group, 2007⁽⁹⁾

Serogroup	<1	1 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 59	60+	Unknown	All Ages
Incidence (Number of cases)	6.94 (25)	1.93 (27)	0.78 (14)	0.34 (7)	1.30 (29)	0.93 (21)	0.54 (12)	0.25 (11)	0.45 (45)	0.59 (36)	0.01 (2)	0.70 (229)
Serogroup A	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)
Serogroup B	5.55 (20)	1.28 (18)	0.61 (11)	0.20 (4)	0.80 (18)	0.66 (15)	0.36 (8)	0.13 (6)	0.23 (23)	0.13 (8)	0 (0)	0.40 (131)
Serogroup C	0.28 (1)	0.21 (3)	0.06 (1)	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	0.09 (2)	0.09 (2)	0.02 (1)	0.10 (10)	0.16 (10)	0 (0)	0.09 (30)
Serogroup Y	0.28 (1)	0.14 (2)	0.00 (0)	0.10 (2)	0.31 (7)	0.09 (2)	0.00 (0)	0.07 (3)	0.06 (6)	0.18 (11)	0.003 (1)	0.11 (35)
Serogroup W-135	0.00 (0)	0.14 (2)	0.00 (0)	0.05 (1)	0.05 (1)	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	0.04 (4)	0.08 (5)	0 (0)	0.04 (13)
Other serogroups	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	0.05 (1)	0.04 (1)	0.00 (0)	0.00 (0)	0.01 (1)	0.02 (1)	0 (0)	0.01 (4)
Unknown serogroup	0.83 (3)	0.14 (2)	0.11 (2)	0.00 (0)	0.09 (2)	0.04 (1)	0.09 (2)	0.02 (1)	0.01 (1)	0.02 (1)	0.003 (1)	0.05 (16)

IV. Vaccine

IV.1 MENINGOCOCCAL CONJUGATE IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULES USED IN CANADA

Table 6 provides an overview of the meningococcal vaccines available in Canada. Table 7 provides a summary of the routine childhood schedules being used in the provinces and territories as of February 2011. In its April 2009 statement,

NACI recommended the inclusion of a dose of conjugate meningococcal vaccine in adolescence with the choice of product determined by local epidemiology. Subsequently, some provinces and territories changed to using the quadrivalent conjugate meningococcal vaccine, Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™) from the monovalent meningococcal C conjugate vaccine for their adolescent program.

TABLE 6: Summary of meningococcal vaccines available in Canada.

Name of product	Type of vaccine	Manufacturer	Concentration of polysaccharide(s)	Protein carrier	Administration	Manufacturer's Schedule
Quadrivalent Meningococcal Vaccines (conjugate and polysaccharide):						
Menactra™	Conjugate A, C, Y, W-135	sanofi pasteur	4 µg of each serogroup	48 µg of diphtheria toxoid	0.5 ml IM	2 to 55 years of age – one dose
Menveo™	Conjugate A, C, Y, W-135	Novartis	10 µg of serogroup A 5 µg of each of serogroups C, W135 and Y	Varying amounts of CRM ₁₉₇ conjugated to each polysaccharide	0.5 ml IM Requires reconstitution	2 to 55 years of age – one dose
Menomune™ A/C/Y/W-135	Polysaccharide A, C, Y, W-135	sanofi pasteur	50 µg of each serogroup	Not applicable	0.5 ml SQ Requires reconstitution	Children 2 years of age and older, adolescents and adults – one dose; repeat at interval based on age if at ongoing risk; can be used for children 3 months of age and older for serogroup A protection
Monovalent Meningococcal C Conjugate Vaccines:						
Meningitec™	Conjugate C	Pfizer Canada	10 µg	15 µg CRM ₁₉₇	0.5 ml IM	Infants 2–12 months of age – 2 doses starting no earlier than 2 months of age and separated by at least two months, with a booster dose in accordance with official recommendations, preferably at about 12 months of age;* Children 1 year of age and older, adolescents and adults – one dose
Menjugate®	Conjugate C	Novartis	10 µg	12.5 – 25 µg CRM ₁₉₇	0.5 ml IM Requires reconstitution	Infants 2–12 months of age – 3 doses starting no earlier than 2 months of age and separated by at least one month, with a booster dose in accordance with NACI recommendations;* Children 1 year of age and older, adolescents and adults – one dose
Neis Vac-C®	Conjugate C	Baxter (distributed by Glaxo SmithKline)	10 µg	10 – 20 µg tetanus toxoid	0.5 ml IM	Infants 2–12 months of age – 2 doses starting no earlier than 2 months of age and separated by at least two months, with one dose after 5 months of age; if primary series completed before 5 months of age give booster in second year of life approximately 1 year from last dose;* Children 1 year of age and older, adolescents and adults – one dose

IM – intramuscularly

SQ – subcutaneously

CRM₁₉₇ *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* cross reacting material 197

***Note:** For children receiving meningococcal C conjugate vaccines in infancy, NACI recommends an additional dose of meningococcal C conjugate vaccines in the second year of life (from 12 to 23 months of age)

Note that NACI's recommendations may differ from the manufacturer's recommendations. NACI's recommendations are outlined in the Canadian Immunization Guide and NACI meningococcal statements.

TABLE 7: Summary of Current Meningococcal Immunization Programs in Canada, 2011⁽¹⁰⁾

Province/ Territory	Current infant program using meningococcal C conjugate	Date of implementation of current infant program	Current adolescent program using (C) meningococcal C conjugate or (Q) C ACYW-135	Date of implementation of current adolescent program
British Columbia	2, 12 months	2005	(C) Grade 6	2003
Alberta	2, 4, 12 months	2007	(Q) Grade 9	2011
Saskatchewan	12 months	2004	(Q) Grade 6	2011
Manitoba	12 months	2009	(C) Grade 4	2004
Ontario	12 months	2004	(Q) Grade 7	2009
Quebec	12 months	2002	(C) < 18 years	2002
New Brunswick	12 months	2004	(Q) Grade 9	2007
Nova Scotia	12 months	2005	(C) Grade 7	2010
Prince Edward Island	12 months	2003	(Q) Grade 9	2006
Newfoundland and Labrador	12 months	2005	(Q) Grade 4	2007
Northwest Territories	2, 12 months	2004	(C) Grade 9	2008
Yukon	2, 12 months	2009	(C) Grade 6	2006
Nunavut	12 months	2007	(C) Grade 9	2006

IV.2 MEN-C-ACYW-135-CRM (MENVEO™) DESCRIPTION AND COMPOSITION

Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) contains capsular polysaccharides from serogroups A (10 µg), C (5 µg), W135 (5 µg) and Y (5 µg). Each serogroup is individually conjugated to CRM₁₉₇, a natural mutant of the diphtheria toxin which serves as a carrier protein. The vaccine contains no adjuvant, preservatives, or thimerosal. The container closures do not contain latex.

The vaccine is packaged in two separate vials (one containing conjugate meningococcal C, W135, Y as a liquid and the other containing conjugate meningococcal A as a powder) that are mixed prior to administration. All the liquid from the meningococcal C, W135, Y vial is withdrawn and injected into the vial containing the lyophilized meningococcal A powder and then shaken vigorously until the components dissolve to yield a solution that is a clear, colourless liquid. Subsequently, 0.5 ml of the reconstituted solution is withdrawn from the vial that previously contained the meningococcal A powder. There may be a small amount of reconstituted vaccine remaining in the vial after the 0.5 ml is withdrawn.

IV.3 EFFICACY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF MEN-C-ACYW-135-CRM (MENVEO™) AND MEN-C-ACYW-135-D (MENACTRA™)

It is generally not feasible to perform efficacy studies of conjugate meningococcal vaccines because the disease is relatively rare, and prohibitively large populations would have to be studied. Regulatory authorities have established immunogenicity criteria as correlates of protection from IMD, and these correlates are used as outcome measures in clinical trials which compare new conjugate meningococcal vaccines to previously authorized meningococcal vaccines.

IV.3.1 Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™)

There is no efficacy or effectiveness data available for Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™).

IV.3.2 Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™)

Effectiveness data for Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™) is now becoming available in the United States after four years of increasing use, primarily among those 11–18 years of age. The Active Bacterial Core (ABC) and MeningNet surveillance systems (these systems represent 54% of the US population)

identified 14 reported cases of IMD (8 serogroup C and 6 serogroup Y) from January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2008 among individuals previously vaccinated with Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™). The median age of the cases at disease onset was 19 years (range 15–21 years) and the median time from Three cases were fatal resulting in a case fatality rate of 21%. Based on the number of vaccine failures, early estimates of vaccine effectiveness of Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™) within 3–4 years of vaccination are 80 to 85%.⁽¹¹⁾

Preliminary results from a case control study in the US involving 108 cases and 158 controls ranging in age from 10 to 23 years demonstrated a 78% overall vaccine effectiveness for Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™)(95% CI: 29 to 93%) (serogroup C 77% (95% CI: 14 to 94%); serogroup Y 88% (95%CI: -23 to 99%). These preliminary results indicated that vaccine effectiveness waned over time when assessed up to less than 5 years post vaccination.⁽¹²⁾⁽¹³⁾

It should be noted that individual vaccine effectiveness may not predict the impact on meningococcal disease burden in the community due to the additional benefit conferred by herd immunity. This is particularly true for serogroup C against which large numbers of Canadian children and adolescents have been vaccinated.

IV.4 IMMUNOLOGICAL CORRELATES OF PROTECTION

Regulatory approval of conjugated vaccines for meningococcal disease has been based primarily on short-term immunogenicity studies.⁽¹⁴⁾ It would be difficult to conduct efficacy and effectiveness studies because of the relative rarity of meningococcal disease. The immunogenicity outcomes that are most commonly used are serum bactericidal antibody (SBA) levels using either human or rabbit serum as a source of complement, and enzyme linked immunosorbent assays (ELISA).

SBA levels are the standard measure used to determine susceptibility and immunity to IMD. These measure the titres of bactericidal antibody in a serum sample that can kill a proportion of a particular strain of *N.meningitidis* in a specified time frame. This test is done *in vitro* in the presence of added complement. Traditionally, human serum has been the exogenous complement source for this assay, and most tests of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) use this methodology. Using human serum complement, a human serum bactericidal antibody (hSBA) titre of $\geq 1:4$ has been found to correlate with protection against serogroup C meningococcal disease⁽¹⁵⁾ and hSBA $\geq 1:4$ has also been used as a correlate for serogroup A meningococcal disease. There are no confirmed

immunological correlates of protection for serogroups Y or W135. Baby rabbit serum, which is more readily available, has replaced human complement in some studies. A baby rabbit serum bactericidal antibody (rSBA) titre of $\geq 1:8$ has been proposed as a correlate of short-term immunity against serogroup C IMD.⁽¹⁶⁾ Geometric mean titres (GMTs) of SBA are also reported as a measure of immune response to meningococcal vaccine. ELISA tests are used to determine the serogroup C meningococcal polysaccharide specific IG concentrations⁽¹⁷⁾ which can be expressed as geometric mean antibody concentrations (GMC). ELISA methodology is also available to assess meningococcal C IgG antibody avidity.⁽¹⁸⁾

Studies of meningococcal vaccines may also use “seroresponse” as an immunological indicator. Seroresponse is defined as the percentage of people who meet the following criteria:

- for subjects with an hSBA titre $< 1:4$ at baseline, a post-vaccination hSBA titre $\geq 1:8$;
- for subjects with an hSBA titre of $\geq 1:4$ at baseline, a post-vaccination titre of at least 4 times their baseline titre.

Seroresponse endpoints can be found in the publications referred to in this statement, but will generally not be summarized in this NACI statement.

Statistical analysis of immunological data uses the concepts of inferiority, non-inferiority and superiority for GMTs, hSBA titres and seroresponse. For GMTs these are defined based on the ratio of GMTs for the study vaccine and the comparator vaccine. The two vaccines were considered non-inferior if the lower limit of the 2-sided 95% confidence interval around the ratio was > 0.5 and superior if this value was > 1 . For the hSBA titre and seroresponse, the difference in the proportion of people achieving this response using the study vaccine and the comparator vaccine are calculated. Non-inferiority is defined by the lower limit of the 2-sided 95% confidence interval greater than -10% and superiority was defined as a lower limit of greater than 0%.

It is well established that vaccination with conjugate meningococcal vaccine primes the immune system for memory and induces good anamnestic responses after challenges with meningococcal C polysaccharide or conjugate vaccines.⁽¹⁹⁾⁻⁽²³⁾ However, because of the short incubation period of IMD (range 2 to 10 days, commonly 3 to 4 days),⁽²⁴⁾ it is now generally accepted that the anamnestic response cannot be relied upon to prevent disease and that circulating antibodies are necessary for protection.⁽⁵⁾ Therefore, immunogenicity studies likely predict short-term effectiveness; however, their ability to determine long-term effectiveness is uncertain as antibody levels decline post-vaccination⁽²⁵⁾⁻⁽²⁷⁾

even within 6–8 months post-vaccination in early childhood.⁽²³⁾⁽²⁸⁾ It is hoped that the higher the antibody titre achieved post-vaccination, the longer circulating antibodies will persist and the longer the duration of protection from vaccination, but evidence is currently awaited to support this idea.

Immunogenicity studies do not predict the impact of vaccination on carriage and herd immunity. Herd immunity may offer protection if sufficient numbers of people are vaccinated, even when individual protection has waned. This has been illustrated in research conducted by Campbell et al.⁽²⁹⁾ Meningococcal C conjugate vaccine was introduced into the United Kingdom in 1999 using a primary immunization schedule of 2, 3 and 4 months for infants and a single dose catch-up campaign for 1–18 year-olds. The catch-up was extended to those up to 25 years of age in January 2002. The researchers demonstrated that vaccine effectiveness in infants was 97% (95% CI: 91–99%) within one year of vaccination, but fell to 68% (95% CI: -63 to 90%) after 1 year and up to 10 years post-vaccination. Nonetheless, rates of meningococcal disease caused by serogroup C in infants under 1 year of age fell by 99% between 1998/1999 and 2007/2008 (from 16.63 to 0.15 per 100,000). This sustained decline in IMD caused by serogroup C despite falling vaccine effectiveness in this age group is attributed to the impact of herd immunity induced by offering vaccine to adolescents and possibly young adults.

IV.5 IMMUNOGENICITY OF MEN-C-ACYW-135-CRM (MENVEO™)

A total of 24 trials involving Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM are ongoing or completed. These include approximately 18 500 individuals who received a formulation of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM. Of these, 14 000 received the final formulation of Menveo™ that has been authorized for use (10 µg serogroup A and 5 µg of each of serogroups C, W135, Y without adjuvant).⁽³⁰⁾ An aluminum-adjuvanted formulation was also tested, however the final formulation does not contain an adjuvant because the adjuvant was not found to significantly improve the immunogenicity of the vaccine.

In the sections below, information related to the immunogenicity of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM in infants, toddlers, adolescents and adults is reviewed. It should be noted that in these studies, blinding of those administering the vaccine is not possible due to the unique appearance of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM, including the requirement to reconstitute the product before administration. The studies are summarized in Table 8.

IV.5.1 Children less than 2 years of age

Two phase II randomized controlled trials in infants have been conducted, both involving subjects from the UK and Canada. In each study the vaccines were administered concomitantly with infant vaccines routinely used in those jurisdictions. The first study by Snape et al⁽²⁸⁾ enrolled a total of 421 infants who were randomized to receive an earlier formulation of Menveo™ which contained an aluminium phosphate adjuvant (Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM with adjuvant). Various schedules were studied as follows: 2, 3, 4 months of age used in the UK; 2, 4, 6 months of age used in Canada; and 2 and 4 months of age used in both the UK and Canada. The results were compared to a monovalent meningococcal C conjugate vaccine (Menjugate® – Novartis Vaccines) given at 2 and 4 months of age in the UK. Immunity was measured using human complement serum bactericidal activity (hSBA) of $\geq 1:4$. At one month after completing their vaccination series, a higher proportion of subjects achieved this level of immunity with the three dose schedules (2, 3, 4 months or 2, 4, 6 months of age) than with the two dose schedules (2, 4 months of age) for all four serogroups. The geometric mean titres (GMTs) were also higher with the three dose schedule than a two dose schedule. Except for serogroup A, the 2, 4, 6 month Canadian schedule achieved slightly higher proportions of infants with immunity and slightly higher GMTs than the 2, 3, 4 month UK schedule. For the 2, 4, 6 month Canadian schedule, the percent of infants who achieved an hSBA titre of $\geq 1:4$ at 1 month after completion of the series was as follows:

- serogroup A 81% (95% CI: 71–89%);
- serogroup C 98% (95% CI: 92–100%);
- serogroup W135 99% (95% CI: 93–100%);
- serogroup Y 98% (CI: 92–100%).

However by 12 months of age, the percentage of infants with this titre had fallen, particularly for serogroups A and C, with the percentage of vaccinated children with a hSBA titre of $\geq 1:4$ as follows:

- serogroup A 41% (95% CI: 26–57%);
- serogroup C 70% (95% CI: 54–82%);
- serogroup W135 95% (95% CI: 83–99%);
- serogroup Y 87% (CI: 74–95%).

GMTs had also fallen substantially from one month post vaccination at 2, 4 and 6 months compared to 12 months of age. As an example, for serogroup C the GMT was 124 (95%CI: 89–172) at one month post vaccination, and 13 (95% CI: 8.72–18) at 12 months of age.

By contrast, the monovalent meningococcal C conjugate vaccine (Menjugate®), which contains double the amount of polysaccharide for serogroup C compared to Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM with adjuvant, given at 2 and 4 months achieved the highest GMTs for serogroup C as follows: 339 (95% CI: 209–551) at 5 months of age (one month post-vaccination), and 26 (95% CI: 17–39) at 12 months of age. The percentages of infants with a titre of $\geq 1:4$ was 98% (95% CI: 87–100%) at one month post-vaccination and 89% (95% CI: 75–97%) at 12 months of age.

One month following a challenge with either another dose of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM with adjuvant or one-fifth of a dose of an unconjugated polysaccharide quadrivalent vaccine (Men-P-ACYW-135 – Menomune™, sanofi pasteur) at 12 months of age, all schedules demonstrated a good booster response. The highest response for serogroup C one month after the 12 month Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM with adjuvant dose was achieved in toddlers who had received the monovalent meningococcal C conjugate vaccine at 2 and 4 months of age (GMTs for serogroup C were 912 (95% CI: 538–1545)). The Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM with adjuvant was not used as a booster dose after the 2, 4 and 6 month Canadian primary series, but with the 2, 3, and 4 month UK primary series, the 12 month booster of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM with adjuvant achieved a GMT of 429 (95% CI: 288–639) for serogroup C one month post-vaccination.

In the group that received monovalent meningococcal C conjugate vaccine at 2 and 4 months of age and then one dose of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM with adjuvant at 12 months of age, the following percentage of toddlers achieved a titre of $\geq 1:4$ for serogroups A, Y and W135:

- serogroup A 59% (95% CI: 42–75%);
- serogroup W135 86% (95% CI: 71–95%);
- serogroup Y 86% (CI: 71–95%).

However, the GMTs were much lower in this group for serogroups A, Y and W135 than in those groups who received the booster of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM with adjuvant at 12 months and had received 2 or 3 doses of the same vaccine in infancy. This finding suggests that the duration of protection with one toddler dose of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM with adjuvant may be shorter than when using this vaccine to prime in infancy and giving a booster dose in the second year of life.

The second study by Perrett et al.⁽³¹⁾ enrolled 180 children in the UK and Canada using a similar protocol to the Snape et al. study described above⁽²⁸⁾. In the Perrett et al study, children received non-adjuvanted Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM, which is the final formulation of Menveo™, given at 2 and 4 months

of age with other routine infant vaccines. Responses at 1 month post-vaccination (5 months of age) were slightly higher in the Canadian arm of the study than in the UK arm with the percentage of infants who achieved a hSBA of $\geq 1:4$ in the Canadian arm as follows:

- serogroup A 57% (95% CI: 45–67%);
- serogroup C 93% (95% CI: 85–97%);
- serogroup W135; 95% (95% CI: 87–99%);
- serogroup Y 91% (CI: 82–96%).

Similar to the Snape et al study, by 12 months of age, the percentage of infants and children with an hSBA titre of $\geq 1:4$ had fallen substantially as follows:

- serogroup A 3% (95% CI: 0.067–14%);
- serogroup C 33% (95% CI: 19–49%);
- serogroup W135 69% (95% CI: 51–83%);
- serogroup Y 63% (CI: 46–78%).

GMTs also fell from one month post vaccination to 12 months of age. Using serogroup C as an example, the GMT was 69 (95% CI: 50–95) at one month post vaccination (5 months of age), and 4.07 (95% CI: 2.73–6.06) at 12 months of age.

Vaccination at 12 months with either a booster dose of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) or one fifth of a dose of an unconjugated quadrivalent polysaccharide meningococcal vaccine (Menomune™) resulted in boosting for all serogroups and high rates of seroprotection. One month after the booster dose of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) in the Canadian arm of the study, the GMT was 258 (95% CI: 156–426) for serogroup C.

In a study involving 175 children, Halperin et al.,⁽³²⁾ compared the immunogenicity in the following three groups:

- two doses of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) at 6 and 12 months;
- one dose of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) at 12 months; and
- a dose of monovalent meningococcal C conjugate vaccine (Menjugate™) at 12 months followed by a dose of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) at 18 months.

Concomitantly administered vaccines included Pentacel™ (DTaP-IPV-Hib) (sanofi pasteur) and Prevnar® (PCV-7) (Pfizer).

The two doses of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) at 6 and 12 months resulted in 100% of recipients achieving an hSBA titre of $\geq 1:4$ for serogroups C (95% CI: 94–100%), W135 (95% CI: 93–100%) and Y (95% CI: 94–100%), and 87 %

(95% CI: 75–95%) achieving this titre for serogroup A when measured at approximately 28 days after the second dose. This schedule induced the highest GMTs for all serogroups except for serogroup C, where the schedule using a single dose of monovalent meningococcal C conjugate vaccine at 12 months and the Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) at 18 months induced a higher response. The GMTs for serogroup C 28 days after completing the schedules were as follows:

- 314 (95% CI: 234–421) for Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM at 6 and 12 months; versus
- 679 (95% CI: 479–962) for monovalent meningococcal C conjugate vaccine at 12 months and Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM at 18 months.

For serogroup C, the Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) at 12 months and the monovalent C meningococcal vaccine (Menjugate™) at 12 months induced similar GMTs of 40 (95% CI: 29–53 and 30–53 respectively) when measured 28 days post-vaccination, and the percentages of children achieving a titre of $\geq 1:4$ were similar at 28 days post-vaccination (96% (95% CI: 87–100%) for Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM and 94% (95% CI: 82–99%) for the monovalent meningococcal C conjugate vaccine). For serogroups A, W135 and Y, the immune response was similar when the Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) was given at 12 month or at 18 months. Approximately 28 days after the vaccine was given at 12 months, the percentages of children with an hSBA titre of $\geq 1:4$ were as follows:

- serogroup A 73% (95% CI: 59–84%);
- serogroup W135 94% (95% CI: 82–99%);
- serogroup Y 78% (95% CI: 65–88%).

In an abstract by Vesikari et al.⁽³³⁾ a dose-finding study which enrolled 620 toddlers aged 12–16 months was reported. These children were randomized to receive one or two doses of different formulations of the vaccine. Using the vaccine formulation chosen for further development, the range of hSBA GMTs for the various serogroups was 5.2–12 after one dose and 28–76 after two doses. The percentage of subjects with an hSBA titre of $\geq 1:4$ for the various serotypes was 49–70% after one dose and 91–96% after two doses.

IV.5.2 Children 2–10 years of age

A study by Black et al.⁽²⁷⁾ involving 619 children 2–10 years of age compared the immune response of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) to the unconjugated polysaccharide quadrivalent vaccine (Men-P-ACYW-135 – Menomune™). The percentage

of children with an hSBA titre $\geq 1:4$ was statistically superior for Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) compared to Men-P-ACYW-135 (Menomune™) at both 1 and 12 months post-vaccination. The GMTs were also statistically significantly higher for all serogroups in the Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) group compared to the Men-P-ACYW-135 (Menomune™) group at 1 month post-vaccination and for serogroups A, W135 and Y at 12 months post-vaccination.

For Men-P-ACYW-135 (Menomune™) there was a decline in immune response for all serogroups from 1 month to 12 months post-vaccination. For Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) there was a decline in immune response from one month post-vaccination to 12 month post-vaccination for serogroups A and C. The percent achieving an hSBA titre $\geq 1:4$ at one and 12 month respectively after receiving Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) for each serogroup was as follows:

- serogroup A 82% (95% CI: 77–87%) at 1 month and 28% (95% CI: 23–34%) at 12 months;
- serogroup C 83% (95% CI: 78–87%) at 1 month and 68% (95% CI: 62–74%) at 12 months;
- serogroup W135 95% (95% CI: 91–97%) at 1 month and 94% (95% CI: 90–97%) at 12 months;
- serogroup Y 91% (CI: 87–94%) at 1 month and 86% (95% CI: 81–90%) at 12 months.

A study by Halperin et al compared Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) to Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™) in 2907 children in two age groups: 2–5 years of age and 6–10 years of age.⁽³⁰⁾⁽³⁴⁾ Some of the 2–5 year age group received two doses of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM given 60 days apart. Using a single dose and measuring the hSBA one month post-vaccination for both age groups, the percentage achieving a titre of $\geq 1:8$ with Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM compared to Men-C-ACYW-135-D was lower for serogroup A, non-inferior for serogroup C and statistically superior for serogroups W135 and Y. The percentage of children 2–5 years of age achieving an hSBA titre of $\geq 1:8$ one month after vaccination with Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM and Men-C-ACYW-135-D respectively was as follows:

- serogroup A 72% and 78%;
- serogroup C 68% and 64%;
- serogroup W135 90% and 75%;
- serogroup Y 76% and 57%.

The percentage of children 6–10 years of age achieving an hSBA titre of $\geq 1:8$ one month after vaccination with Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM and Men-C-ACYW-135-D respectively was as follows:

- serogroup A 77% and 83%;
- serogroup C 77% and 74%;
- serogroup W135 91% and 84%;
- serogroup Y 79% and 63%.

Comparison of GMTs for both age groups combined reveal that Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM is non-inferior to Men-C-ACYW-135-D for serogroup A, and statistically superior for serogroups C, W135 and Y. The 2–5 year olds who received two doses of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM had much higher GMTs for all serogroups and a higher percentage of children achieved a titre of $\geq 1:8$ for all serogroups compared to children receiving a single dose of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM.

IV.5.3 Adolescents

A phase II study conducted by Jackson et al.⁽³⁵⁾ provides data on 524 US adolescents aged 11–17 years randomized in two phases to receive the earlier formulation of Menveo™ with the aluminum phosphate adjuvant (Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM with adjuvant) or the authorized formulation of Menveo™ without the adjuvant (Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM) each compared to the unconjugated polysaccharide quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine (Men-P-ACYW-135 – Menomune™). At one month post-vaccination based on GMTs and the percentage who achieved an hSBA titre of $\geq 1:4$, the adjuvanted and unadjuvanted formulations had similar serological responses. Based on immunogenicity measures at 1 month post-vaccination, Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM with or without the adjuvant performed significantly better than Men-P-ACYW-135 (Menomune™) for almost every comparison of the four serogroups.

The percentage of adolescents achieving an hSBA titre of $\geq 1:8$ at one month post-vaccination with the non-adjuvanted formulation of MenACW-CRM (the authorized formulation of Menveo™) was as follows:

- serogroup A 81% (95% CI: 74–87%);
- serogroup C 84% (95% CI: 77–90%);
- serogroup W135 91% (95% CI: 84–95%);
- serogroup Y 95% (CI: 90–98%).

At 12 months post-vaccination, based on GMTs, and/or the percentage of vaccinees with a titre of $\geq 1:4$ and/or $1:8$, the immune response had remained unchanged for serogroup W135, decreased somewhat for serogroups C and Y, but

had fallen substantially for serogroup A such that the percentage of adolescents who still had a titre of $\geq 1:8$ at 12 months post-vaccination for serogroup A was only 29% (95% CI: 22–38%). The percentage of adolescents who still had an hSBA titre of $\geq 1:8$ at 12 months post vaccination was as follows:

- serogroup C 77% (95% CI: 69–84%);
- serogroup W135 was 95% CI:88–97%);
- serogroup Y was 82% (95% CI:75–88%).

One phase III study has been published in adolescents 11–18 years of age.⁽³⁶⁾ In this US multicenter randomized controlled trial, 2180 adolescents received a single dose of one of three lots of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) or a single dose of Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™). Due to limited human complement, immunogenicity was only assessed in some subjects (between 288 and 501 adolescents for Men-C-ACYW-135-D depending on the serogroup; and between 1024 and 1483 adolescents for Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM depending on the serogroup). The three lots of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM were combined for the analysis as they had similar immunogenicity results. Using GMTs at one month post-vaccination, Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM was determined to be superior to Men-C-ACYW-135-D for all serogroups. Using an hSBA titre of $\geq 1:8$ at one month post-vaccination, Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM was superior to Men-C-ACYW-135-D for all serogroups except serogroup C, where Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM was non-inferior to Men-C-ACYW-135-D. The greatest difference in percentage of adolescents achieving an hSBA titre of $\geq 1:8$ was found for serogroup Y: 88% for Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (95% CI: 85–90%) versus 69% for Men-C-ACYW-135-D (95% CI: 63–74%). The clinical significance of the differences in immune responses between the two products is uncertain, particularly with respect to duration of protection.

The percentage of adolescents achieving a hSBA titre $\geq 1:8$ one month post-vaccination with Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) was as follows:

- serogroup A 75% (95% CI: 73–78%);
- serogroup C 84% (95% CI: 82–86%);
- serogroup W135 96% (95% CI: 95–97%);
- serogroup Y 88% (95% CI: 85–90%).

A study by Gill et al.⁽³⁷⁾ extends the immunogenicity data on a subset of patients included in the Jackson study described above.⁽³⁶⁾ Of the original cohort vaccinated between 11–18 years of age, 278 of those who received Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) and 191 of those who received Men-C-ACYW-135-D

(Menactra™) were assessed a median of 22 months post-vaccination. The immunological response was compared to 128 controls who had not been previously vaccinated. The percentage of subjects who achieved an hSBA titre $\geq 1:8$ was significantly higher for those who received Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM compared to Men-C-ACYW-135-D for serogroups A, W135 and Y and non-significantly higher for serogroup C. GMTs were also significantly higher for the Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM group compared to Men-C-ACYW-135-D for serogroups A and Y and non-significantly higher for serogroups C and W135. It is hypothesized that the higher rates of persistence of the immune response for Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM are related to the higher GMTs that were achieved one month post-vaccination. For the Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM group, the percentage who had a hSBA titre of $\geq 1:8$ at a median of 22 months post-vaccination were as follows:

- serogroup A 36%;
- serogroup C 62%;
- serogroup W135 84%;
- serogroup Y 67%.

IV.5.4 Adults

Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) has also been studied in adults aged 19–55 years of age by Reisinger et al.⁽³⁸⁾ using similar methodology to the phase III adolescent study by Jackson described above.⁽³⁶⁾ A total of 1359 adults were randomized to receive one of three lots of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) or Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™). Based on results of the adolescent trial where the three lots of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM gave consistent results, the three lots were combined for this analysis.

Based on the proportion of adults who achieved a titre of $\geq 1:8$ at one month post-vaccination, Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) was non-inferior to Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™) for all four serogroups and superior for serogroups C and Y. Based on GMTs at one month post-vaccination, Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM was non-inferior to Men-C-ACYW-135-D for all four serogroups and superior for serogroups C, W135 and Y. Further study is required to determine if these findings translate to superior clinical protection from invasive meningococcal disease and the impact on duration of protection.

The percentage of adults achieving a hSBA titre $\geq 1:8$ at one month post-vaccination with Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) was as follows:

- serogroup A 69% (95% CI: 66–72%);
- serogroup C 80% (95% CI: 77–83%);

- serogroup W135 94% (95% CI: 91–96%);
- serogroup Y 79% (CI: 76–83%).

Two multicentered, controlled trials by Gill et al.⁽³⁹⁾ studied the immune response of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) in adults. In the 19–55 year old age group, 3864 people were enrolled and randomized to receive either Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM or Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™). In the 56–65 year old age group, 326 people were enrolled and randomized to receive either Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM or unconjugated polysaccharide quadrivalent vaccine (Men-P-ACYW-135 – Menomune™). Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM was non-inferior to the comparator vaccine for all serogroups and statistically higher for some serogroups. In the 56–65 year olds, Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM induced geometric mean titres (GMTs) that were 1.4 to 5-fold higher than Men-P-ACYW-135.

IV.5.5 Summary of Immunogenicity Data for Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™)

Thirteen studies of the immunogenicity of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) with or without the adjuvant were reviewed, some with concomitant administration of other age-appropriate vaccines, involving subjects from 2 months to 65 years of age. These studies are summarized in Table 8.

Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM has been found to be immunogenic in infants and toddlers; however as previously recommended by NACI, infants vaccinated at less than one year of age show a waning immune response indicating the need for a booster dose in the second year of life (from 12 to 23 months of age).

Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM in those 2 to 65 years of age was compared with unconjugated quadrivalent polysaccharide vaccines (Men-P-ACYW-135 – Menomune™), and/or the other available quadrivalent conjugate meningococcal vaccine, Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™). In every comparison assessing serogroups C, Y, and W135, and in most comparisons assessing serogroup A, Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM was found to be non-inferior to these vaccines and in several instances, Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM was found to have a statistically superior immune response. The implication of the higher immune response on clinical effectiveness, and particularly on duration of protection, is not certain.

IV.6 SCHEDULE, DOSAGE AND ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION FOR MEN-C-ACYW-135-CRM (MENVEO™)

The dose of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) is 0.5 ml intramuscularly (IM). A single dose of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) is authorized for use in those 2–55 years of age. See Recommendation section for possible additional uses.

IIV.7 BOOSTER DOSES AND RE-IMMUNIZATION

Circulating antibodies are considered necessary to protect an individual against invasive meningococcal disease (IMD). Indirect protection (to non-immunized persons) through herd immunity also contributes to decreased frequency of IMD when meningococcal vaccine programs are in place.

NACI has previously recommended an adolescent dose of conjugate meningococcal vaccine, even if conjugate serogroup C vaccination was previously received as an infant or toddler. The need for further booster doses after adolescence has not yet been determined and will be dependent on the duration of protection achieved by the conjugate meningococcal dose in adolescence and the burden of meningococcal disease in older age groups.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices in the United States has recommended that those previously vaccinated with a quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine at age ≥7 years and who are at prolonged increased risk should be revaccinated 5 years after their previous dose, and persons previously vaccinated at 2–6 years of age and who are at prolonged increased risk should be revaccinated 3 years after their previous dose.⁽⁴⁰⁾ In addition, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has recommended a booster dose of quadrivalent vaccine at 16 years of age in those vaccinated routinely with quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine at 11 to 12 years of age, and 2-dose primary series 2 months apart for those 2 to 54 years of age with certain high-risk medical conditions.⁽¹³⁾ It should be noted that unlike Canada, the United States does not have an infant or toddler meningococcal vaccine program.

For high risk individuals who remain at ongoing or recurring risk of exposure to meningococcal disease (research, industrial and clinical laboratory personnel who are potentially routinely exposed to *N. meningitidis*; or travellers or military personnel who remain in or revisit areas where meningococcal vaccine is recommended) or high risk individuals with underlying medical conditions (asplenia; complement, properdin, factor D

or primary antibody deficiencies; or HIV), the following re-vaccination schedule is recommended by NACI, based on expert opinion:

- For those vaccinated at 6 years of age and under: provide a booster dose 3–5 years after the last dose, followed by every 5 years.
- For those vaccinated at 7 years of age and older: provide a booster dose 5 years after the last dose, followed by every 5 years.
- Travellers to Hajj should check recommendations for re-vaccination at: <http://www.hajinformation.com/main/p3001.htm> as more frequent re-vaccination may be required.

A quadrivalent conjugate meningococcal vaccine should be used for re-vaccination and based on expert opinion, either Men-C-ACYW-135- D (Menactra™) or Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) can be used, regardless of what meningococcal vaccine was used for the initial vaccination.

For those previously vaccinated who are now close contacts or during outbreaks, revaccination as follows is recommended, based on expert opinion:

- Those previously vaccinated with a serogroup that differs from the index case or outbreak strain should be vaccinated immediately with the appropriate vaccine (as outlined in Recommendation 3 below);
- Those previously vaccinated with a serogroup that is the same as the index case or outbreak strain should be revaccinated with the appropriate vaccine (as outlined in Recommendation 3 below):
 - If they were less than 1 year of age at last meningococcal vaccination and more than 4 weeks have passed since their last meningococcal vaccine;
 - If they have an underlying medical condition that puts them at risk for meningococcal disease and more than 4 weeks have passed since their last meningococcal vaccine;
 - If more than a year has passed since their last meningococcal vaccine if they were not less than 1 year of age at the time of their last meningococcal vaccination and if they have no underlying medical condition that puts them at risk for meningococcal disease.

IV.8 SEROLOGICAL TESTING

There is no indication for routine pre- or post-immunization serology.

IV.9 STORAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR MEN-C-ACYW-135-CRM (MENVEO™)

Store Menveo™ in the refrigerator between 2°C to 8°C and protect from light. Do not freeze Menveo™ and discard it if it is accidentally frozen. Once reconstituted, use Menveo™ immediately, but it may be held at or below 25 °C for up to 2 hours.

See the “Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) description and composition” section above for reconstitution instructions. The liquid conjugate meningococcal C, W135, and Y component may have a different expiry date than the conjugate meningococcal A powder component. The product should not be used beyond the outer carton expiry date.

IV.10 SIMULTANEOUS ADMINISTRATION

IV.10.1 Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™)

Infants enrolled in the Phase II clinical trial reported by Snape et al⁽²⁸⁾ and Perrett et al⁽³¹⁾ received other routine childhood vaccines at the same time as Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM with or without adjuvant. In Canada, infants received the 7-valent conjugate pneumococcal vaccine (Prenar®, Pfizer Vaccines), hepatitis B vaccine (Recombivax®, Merck and Co.) and diphtheria, tetanus, polio, acellular pertussis and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) (Pentacel®, sanofi pasteur). At 12 months of age they received MMR (MMR II®, Merck and Co.) with the booster dose of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM. In the UK, infants received diphtheria, tetanus, polio, acellular pertussis and Hib (PediaceL®, sanofi pasteur) along with the adjuvanted Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM vaccine. In the Snape et al study, one month after the completion of the primary series for these concomitantly administered vaccines, the immune response was found to be excellent ($\geq 90\%$ achieved the correlate of protection for the concomitantly administered vaccines). In the Canadian arm of the Perrett et al study, only the first two doses of the primary series of Pentacel®, Prenar® and Recombivax® (2 and 4 month doses) were administered prior to blood testing at 5 months. Nonetheless, very good immune responses were achieved for most concomitantly administered antigens, with exceptions being the response to some pneumococcal serotypes and Hib (where very good response was noted after completion of the three doses of PediaceL® at 2, 3 and 4 months in the UK).

A randomized controlled study by Arguedas et al⁽⁴¹⁾ involving 1620 adolescents aged 11–18 years from Costa Rica studied the effect of concomitant administration of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) with the quadrivalent human

papillomavirus vaccine (HPV) (Gardasil™ – Merck & Co.) and a tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis (Tdap) (Boostrix® – GlaxoSmithKline) vaccine. Other groups were given Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM alone one month before Tdap or were given Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM one month after Tdap. Immune response was measured one month post-vaccination.

Concomitant administration resulted in similar rates of local reactions when the three vaccines were given at the same visit or when Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM was given one month before or after Tdap; The reported rates of systemic reactions when Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM was administered concomitantly was 58%, when given alone was 51% or when given after Tdap was 43%. No serious adverse events were considered to be possibly or probably related to the Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM vaccine.

The immunogenicity of HPV 6, 11, 16 and 18; meningococcal A, C, and Y; and diphtheria and tetanus were similar regardless of the schedule of administration, although higher geometric mean concentrations were achieved for diphtheria when administered concomitantly with Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM and HPV compared to other schedules. The pertussis toxoid, filamentous hemagglutinin, and pertactin had statistically significantly higher responses as measured by geometric mean concentrations when Tdap was given one month after Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM than when Tdap was given alone. When Tdap was administered concomitantly with Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM and HPV, the geometric mean concentration for the filamentous hemagglutinin and pertactin antigens were statistically significantly lower compared to the group that received Tdap alone. The clinical relevance of this is uncertain. Using the percentage of recipients who achieved an hSBA titre of $\geq 1:8$, all schedules resulted in a similar immune response for meningococcal serogroups; however, using seroresponse as a measure of immunity, the response to meningococcal W135 was lower when Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM was given one month after Tdap than when the two vaccines were given concomitantly or when Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM was given alone. The clinical relevance of these findings is uncertain.

Similar results were found in a study by Gasparini et al.⁽⁴²⁾ in which 1072 adolescents and young adults aged 11–25 years were randomized to one of three groups:

- Group 1 – Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) and Tdap (Boostrix® – GlaxoSmithKline) administered concomitantly;
- Group 2 – Tdap administered with placebo; and
- Group 3 – Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM administered with placebo.

There were no clinically significant adverse events related to any vaccine. In general, local and systemic reactions were reported more frequently in the group that received Tdap and Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM concomitantly and in the Tdap alone group, compared to the Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM group.

Significantly higher responses to diphtheria were found in the concomitant group. The response to two pertussis antigens (pertussis toxoid, and pertactin) was slightly lower in the concomitant group compared to when Tdap was administered alone. The response to tetanus toxoid and the meningococcal serogroups were unaffected by co-administration.

IV.10.2 Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™)

In an open labelled, multicentered, randomized controlled study by Reisinger et al.⁽⁴³⁾ 394 boys and 648 girls who were between the ages of 10 and 17 years were randomized to one of two groups.

- Group A received the quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccine (Gardasil® – Merck and Co., Inc) on day 1 and at months 2 and 6; Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™) and diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis (Tdap – Adacel™ – sanofi pasteur) were also received on day 1.
- Group B received the human papillomavirus vaccine on day 1, and at months 2 and 6; Men-C-ACYW-135-D and Tdap were received at month 1.

On day 1 in Group A, the human papillomavirus vaccine was given in one arm and Men-C-ACYW-135-D and Tdap were both given in the opposite arm. At month 1 in Group B, the Men-C-ACYW-135-D and Tdap were both given in the same arm using the arm opposite to the day 1 human papillomavirus vaccine. Blood was drawn from Group A on day 1 and at months 1 and 7, and from Group B on day 1 and at months 1, 2 and 7.

There were no safety concerns with concomitant administration of all three vaccines, with no serious adverse events reported after concomitant administration. The only statistically significant differences noted in the study were more swelling in the human papillomavirus vaccine arm on day 1 when all three vaccines were administered concomitantly (Group A) (10.9%) compared to when human papillomavirus vaccine was given alone (Group B) (6.9%), and in the Men-C-ACYW-135-D and Tdap arm where there was more pain in Group A versus Group B (81.9% versus 75.6%) and more bruising in Group A versus Group B (5.8% versus 2.2%).

The immune response in Group A was non-inferior to the immune response in Group B for all antigens. It should be noted that Group B received Men-C-ACYW-135-D and Tdap on

the same day, so no comparison can be made regarding the immune response to each of these vaccines given alone.

IV.10.3 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine and CRM₁₉₇-containing meningococcal conjugate vaccines

A study by Diez-Domingo et al.⁽⁴⁴⁾ found a reduction in immunity to meningococcal C when the 13-valent pneumococcal CRM₁₉₇-conjugate vaccine was co-administered with a CRM₁₉₇-containing monovalent meningococcal C conjugate vaccine, compared to when the 7-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine was co-administered with the same meningococcal C conjugate vaccine. The study enrolled 621 2-month old infants in Spain. The vaccination schedule was as follows: conjugate pneumococcal and meningococcal C vaccines at 2 and 4 months of age; pneumococcal vaccine alone at 6 months of age, and pneumococcal and meningococcal C vaccines at 15 months of age. The infants were randomized to receive either the 7-valent or 13-valent conjugate pneumococcal vaccine. Other routine vaccines were administered concomitantly. At 5 months of age, the GMTs for meningococcal C were lower in the group who received the 13-valent pneumococcal vaccine compared to the 7-valent vaccine (191 (95% CI: 168–218) compared to 266 (95% CI: 235–302), respectively). The difference in GMTs was more marked at 16 months of age when the GMT for meningococcal C was 432 (95% CI: 361–517) in the group that received the 13-valent pneumococcal vaccine compared to 731 (95% CI: 642–832) in the group that received the 7-valent pneumococcal vaccine; however, the proportion of responders was > 97% in both groups. It is possible that the larger amount of CRM₁₉₇ in the 13-valent pneumococcal vaccine is interfering with the response to the CRM₁₉₇-containing meningococcal C vaccine.⁽⁴⁵⁾ The clinical significance of this as it relates to meningococcal C CRM₁₉₇-conjugate vaccines or Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) co-administered with the 13-valent conjugate pneumococcal vaccine is unknown. Additional studies of co-administration of these vaccines are required.

IV.11 VACCINE SAFETY AND ADVERSE EVENTS

IV.11.1 Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™)

Eleven studies of the safety and reactogenicity of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM with or without the adjuvant were reviewed, some with concomitant administration of other vaccines. The safety and adverse events data are summarized in Table 8. No significant safety concerns have been raised with the use of

Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™). In almost all studies, when compared to either the monovalent meningococcal C conjugate vaccine, the unconjugated quadrivalent polysaccharide vaccine (Men-P-ACYW-135 – Menomune™), or the other available quadrivalent conjugate meningococcal vaccine, Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™), the rate of local and systemic adverse events following Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM with or without adjuvant have been similar. In all but one study, no serious adverse events were felt by the investigators to be related to Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM.

In the study using Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM with adjuvant in infants⁽²⁸⁾, the investigators reported two serious adverse events which were thought to be related to the Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM: thrombocytopenic purpura and supraventricular tachycardia. The child with the thrombocytopenic purpura had an antecedent viral infection and the thrombocytopenic purpura resolved spontaneously. The child with the supraventricular tachycardia had a history of recurrent supraventricular tachycardia and was enrolled in violation of the study's exclusion criteria. Based on the information provided, it is possible both of these events could be related to antecedent conditions in the individuals immunized.

No increased risk for Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) has been noted in the clinical trials involving Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™).

IV.11.2 Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™)

Based on passive surveillance in the United States, NACI has previously recommended caution when administering Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™) to people with a past history of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS).⁽³⁾ NACI now recommends that the Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™) can be administered without safety concerns to people with a previous history of GBS as a result of two large US studies of recipients of Menactra™ described below.

The Meningococcal Vaccine Study was coordinated by the Harvard Pilgrim Health Institute. It followed 12,589,910 people aged 11–21 years from five US health plans for a total of 18,322,800 person-years. A total of 1.4 million doses of Men-C-ACYW-135-D were observed to have been given and 99 cases of GBS were confirmed to have occurred. None of the cases of GBS occurred within 6 weeks of receipt of Men-C-ACYW-135-D.⁽⁴⁶⁾ The second study involves the Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD), a collaborative effort between the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and eight large managed care organizations in the United States. Since 2005, the VSD has been monitoring for the occurrence of GBS between 1 and 42 days post-vaccination with

Men-C-ACYW-135-D in adolescents 11–19 years of age. At the time of analysis, 889,684 doses of Men-C-ACYW-135-D had been administered at the eight sites and no verified cases of GBS had been identified within 1 to 42 days of receipt of the vaccine.⁽⁴⁷⁾

IV.12 CONTRAINDICATIONS AND PRECAUTIONS FOR MEN-C-ACYW-135-CRM (MENVEO™)

A history of anaphylaxis to a previous dose of meningococcal vaccine, to any vaccine that contains diphtheria toxoid or CRM₁₉₇, or to any component of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) is a contraindication to the use of this product.

Severe acute febrile illness warrants deferring the vaccine until symptoms have resolved.

Conjugate vaccines have not been studied in pregnancy and there are very limited data on the use of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) in pregnancy; however in specific circumstances in which the benefits outweigh the risks, its use may be considered.

IV.13 INTERCHANGEABILITY BETWEEN MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINES

There are several examples where more than one type of meningococcal vaccine product is administered to the same individual. Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM with and without adjuvant has been used after meningococcal C conjugate vaccines resulting in an excellent booster response to serogroup C.⁽²⁸⁾⁽³²⁾ Similarly, Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™) has been shown to induce an excellent booster response after meningococcal C conjugate vaccination.⁽⁴⁸⁾ The unconjugated bivalent (serogroups A and C) or quadrivalent polysaccharide vaccines are often used after conjugate vaccines to simulate exposure to disease and induce a good booster immune response.⁽¹⁹⁾⁽²¹⁾⁽²³⁾⁽²⁸⁾⁽³¹⁾

Therefore, based on expert opinion, if a quadrivalent product is chosen for the adolescent dose of meningococcal vaccine, Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) or Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™) may be used, regardless of what meningococcal vaccine was previously used.

There is no data on using Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) after Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™) or vice versa. However, should revaccination with a quadrivalent conjugate product be needed, based on expert opinion, either product may be used following the other.

V. Recommendations

V.1 ADOLESCENTS

NACI continues to recommend that all Canadian adolescents receive a dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine around the age of 12 years, even if previously vaccinated as an infant or toddler. Either a monovalent meningococcal C conjugate or quadrivalent conjugate meningococcal product may be chosen depending on local epidemiology and other programmatic considerations. If a quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate product is chosen, either Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™) or Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) may be used.

NACI Recommendation Grade B

V.2 HIGH-RISK GROUPS

As previously recommended, individuals with the following risk factors should receive quadrivalent conjugate meningococcal vaccine.

- Persons with anatomic or functional asplenia (including sickle cell disease);
- Persons who have complement, properdin, factor D or primary antibody deficiencies;
- Persons with acquired complement deficiency (eg. those receiving eculizumab (Soliris™));
- Travellers when meningococcal vaccine is recommended (meningitis belt of Sub-Saharan Africa) or required (pilgrims to the Hajj in Mecca);
- Research, industrial and clinical laboratory personnel who are routinely exposed to *N. meningitidis*; and
- Military personnel during recruit training and on certain deployments (Military personnel may be at increased risk when accommodated in close quarters or through deployment to endemic / epidemic countries).

NACI Recommendation Grade B

NACI has previously stated that the quadrivalent conjugate meningococcal vaccine could be considered for individuals with HIV.

NACI Recommendation Grade B

Age Considerations for the Above-High-Risk Groups:

In reviewing the following age considerations for the above high risk groups, it should be noted that both Menveo™ and Menactra™ have been authorized for use in Canada in individuals aged 2–55 years.

AGE LESS THAN 2 YEARS WITH THE ABOVE HIGH-RISK CONDITIONS

Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) has been found to be safe and immunogenic in children less than 2 years of age.⁽²⁸⁾⁽³¹⁾⁽³²⁾ Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™) has been found to be only modestly immunogenic in infants, but appears to prime the immune response in the majority of infants given three doses.⁽⁴⁹⁾ Based on available published data, Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) is the recommended product in this age group. Possible schedules for vaccinating high-risk infants and young children based on clinical trials of immunogenicity can be found in Table 12.

AGE 2–10 YEARS WITH THE ABOVE HIGH-RISK CONDITIONS

Based on expert opinion, either quadrivalent conjugate meningococcal vaccine can be used for children in this group. Two doses at least 8 weeks apart are recommended for those in the high risk group due to underlying medical conditions (asplenia; complement, properdin, factor D or primary antibody deficiencies; or HIV). A minimum 4 week interval can be used if rapid protection is required. If only one dose was previously given, then give another at the earliest opportunity and proceed with booster doses as outlined below based on the interval from the second dose.

For those who only receive one dose of quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine (eg. travellers) routine monovalent meningococcal C conjugate vaccine should already have been administered to children 2–10 years of age and if not previously given, should also be administered at least one month after the quadrivalent conjugate vaccine to ensure optimal serogroup C protection.

11–55 YEARS WITH THE ABOVE HIGH-RISK CONDITIONS

Based on expert opinion, either quadrivalent conjugate meningococcal vaccine can be used for individuals in this group. Two doses at least 8 weeks apart are recommended for those in the high risk group due to underlying medical conditions (asplenia; complement, properdin, factor D or primary antibody deficiencies; or HIV). A minimum 4 week interval can be used if rapid protection is required. If only one dose was previously given, then give another at the earliest opportunity and proceed with booster doses as outlined below based on the interval from the second dose.

AGE 56 YEARS AND OLDER WITH THE ABOVE HIGH-RISK CONDITIONS

Based on expert opinion, either quadrivalent conjugate meningococcal vaccine may be considered for individuals in this group. Two doses at least 8 weeks apart are recommended for those in the high risk group due to underlying medical conditions (asplenia; complement, properdin, factor D or primary antibody deficiencies; or HIV). A minimum 4 week interval can be used if rapid protection is required. If only one dose was previously given, then give another at the earliest opportunity and proceed with booster doses as outlined below based on the interval from the second dose.

NACI Recommendation Grade B

V.3 CLOSE CONTACTS AND OUTBREAKS

Serogroup C

For close contacts of serogroup C IMD when the contact is 11 years of age or older, and to control outbreaks of serogroup C in those 11 years of age and older, either a monovalent meningococcal C conjugate vaccine or one of the available quadrivalent conjugate meningococcal vaccines may be used. For close contacts of serogroup C who are less than 11 years of age or to control outbreaks of serogroup C in children less than 11 years of age, a monovalent meningococcal C conjugate vaccine is recommended as more experience is available with these products.

NACI Recommendation Grade A

Serogroups A, W135 and Y

A quadrivalent conjugate meningococcal vaccine is recommended for close contacts of persons with invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) caused by serogroups A, W135 or Y, and for the control of outbreaks caused by these serogroups. Either Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) or Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™) may be used for this purpose in those 2 years of age and over.

NACI Recommendation Grade A

For children less than 2 years of age who are close contacts of a person with IMD caused by serogroups A, W135 or Y or for outbreaks caused by these serogroups, Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) should be used. Protection from vaccination post-exposure to IMD should last at least one year as this is the period where increased risk has been noted for household contacts.⁽⁵⁰⁾ Possible schedules for vaccinating infants and young children for post-exposure protection against serogroups A, Y or W135 or for management of outbreaks caused by these serogroups are outlined in Table 12. There is no data on the use of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) in infants younger than 2 months of age.

NACI Recommendation Grade B

For those previously vaccinated who are now close contacts or during outbreaks, revaccination as follows is recommended, based on expert opinion:

- Those previously vaccinated with a serogroup that differs from the index case or outbreak strain should be vaccinated immediately with the appropriate vaccine (as outlined above);
- Those previously vaccinated with a serogroup that is the same as the index case or outbreak strain should be revaccinated with the appropriate vaccine (as outlined above):
 - If they were less than 1 year of age at last meningococcal vaccination and more than 4 weeks have passed since their last meningococcal vaccine;
 - If they have an underlying medical condition that puts them at risk for meningococcal disease and more than 4 weeks have passed since their last meningococcal vaccine;
 - If more than a **year** has passed since their last meningococcal vaccine if they were not less than 1 year of age at the time of their last meningococcal vaccination and if they have no underlying medical condition that puts them at risk for meningococcal disease.

NACI Recommendation Grade B

See the Canadian Immunization Guide for further details regarding the vaccination of close contacts.

V.4 REVACCINATION FOR CERTAIN HIGH RISK CIRCUMSTANCES AND HIGH RISK GROUPS

For high risk individuals who remain at ongoing or recurring risk of exposure to meningococcal disease (research, industrial and clinical laboratory personnel who are potentially routinely exposed to *N. meningitidis*; or travellers or military personnel who remain in or revisit areas where meningococcal vaccine is recommended) or high risk individuals with underlying medical conditions (asplenia; complement, properdin, factor D or primary antibody deficiencies; or HIV), the following re-vaccination schedule is recommended by NACI, based on expert opinion:

- For those vaccinated at 6 years of age and under: provide a booster dose 3–5 years after the last dose, followed by every 5 years.
- For those vaccinated at 7 years of age and older: provide a booster dose 5 years after the last dose, followed by every 5 years.
- Travellers to Hajj should check recommendations for re-vaccination at: <http://www.hajjinformation.com/main/p3001.htm> as more frequent re-vaccination may be required.

A quadrivalent conjugate meningococcal vaccine should be used for revaccination and based on expert opinion, either Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™) or Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) can be used, regardless of what meningococcal vaccine was used for the initial vaccination.

NACI Recommendation Grade B

See Recommendation 3 above for revaccination recommendations for those previously vaccinated who are now close contacts or during an outbreak.

VI. Research priorities

Research to address the following outstanding questions is encouraged

1. The effectiveness and duration of immunogenicity and protection of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) and Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™);
2. Further data on the use of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) and Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™) in infants and toddlers;
3. The safety, immunogenicity and effectiveness of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) and Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™) in certain high risk groups such as the immunocompromised;
4. The immunogenicity and safety of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) and Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™) when each is co-administered with age-appropriate vaccines including travel-related vaccines. Studies related to meningococcal CRM₁₉₇-containing vaccines co-administered with the 13-valent conjugate pneumococcal vaccine are required.

V.5 SIMULTANEOUS ADMINISTRATION WITH OTHER VACCINES

Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™) or Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) can be administered at the same visit as all age-appropriate adolescent and adult vaccines using a separate needle and syringe and injection site. Co-administration of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) and Tdap may result in a lower immune response to the pertussis antigens than when Tdap is given alone; however, the clinical significance of this is unknown. Tdap given one month after Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) induces the strongest immunological response to pertussis antigens.

Studies indicate that Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) can be administered with all routine paediatric vaccines, however further studies are needed with regard to concomitant administration with 13-valent pneumococcal vaccine due to possible immunological interference with CRM₁₉₇-containing vaccines. The clinical significance of this as it relates to meningococcal C CRM₁₉₇-conjugate vaccines or Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) co-administered with the 13-valent conjugate pneumococcal vaccine is unknown.

NACI Recommendation Grade B

V.6 USE IN PATIENTS WITH PAST HISTORY OF GUILLAIN-BARRÉ SYNDROME GBS)

Either Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™) or Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) can be administered to people with a previous history of GBS without safety concerns.

NACI Recommendation Grade A

VII. Surveillance priorities

Surveillance should also be conducted to address the following outstanding questions:

1. The impact of meningococcal vaccination programs on the epidemiology of invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) in Canada.
2. The coverage rates of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) and Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™) and the impact of these coverage rates on carriage and herd immunity as reflected by IMD in unvaccinated individuals.

List of abbreviations

CDC	Center for Disease Control and Prevention
CRM₁₉₇	<i>Corynebacterium diphtheriae</i> cross reacting material 197 used to conjugate meningococcal vaccines
DTaP	Diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis vaccine
ELISA	Enzyme linked immunosorbent assays
GMC	Geometric mean concentration
GMT	Geometric mean titre
GBS	Guillain-Barré Syndrome
Hib	<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b
HPV	Human papillomavirus vaccine
hSBA	Human complement serum bactericidal antibody
IG	Immunoglobulin
IgG	Immunoglobulin G
IM	Intramuscularly
IMD	Invasive meningococcal disease
Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM	Menveo™ – Produced by Novartis Vaccines
Men-C-ACYW-135-D	Menactra™ – Produced by sanofi pasteur
Men-P-ACYW-135	Menomune™ – Produced by sanofi pasteur
MMR	Measles, Mumps, Rubella
NACI	National Advisory Committee on Immunization
PCV-7	Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine 7 valent
PHAC	Public Health Agency of Canada
rSBA	Rabbit complement serum bactericidal antibody
SBA	Serum bactericidal antibody
SQ	Subcutaneously
Tdap	Tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis vaccine
VSD	Vaccine Safety Datalink

Tables

TABLE 8: Summary of Evidence (as at December 2009) for NACI Recommendation(s):

EVIDENCE OF IMMUNOGENICITY FOR MEN-C-ACYW-135-CRM						
Study	Vaccine	Study Design	Participants	Outcomes	Level of Evidence	Quality
Snape et al. 2008 ⁽²⁸⁾ Phase II	Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM with adjuvant Concomitant with Pediacel/Pentacel, Recombivax, Prevnar, MMR depending on routine schedules Compared to monovalent meningococcal C conjugate (Menjugate) Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM with adjuvant used at 12 months in UK groups and some Canadian groups 1/5 of unconjugated quadrivalent polysaccharide (Menomune) challenge at 12 months in some Canadian groups	Open-label randomized controlled trial UK and Canada	N=421 enrolled and randomized to various schedules / products UK Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM with adjuvant at 2, 3, 4 or 2, 4 months Canada Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM with adjuvant at 2, 4, 6 or 2, 4 months UK monovalent meningococcal C conjugate at 2, 4 months 12 month dose in UK was Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM 12 month challenge in some groups in Canada with 1/5 dose of Menomune™ or Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM or no challenge	hSBA \geq 1:4 used as measure of immunity Three dose schedules had better immune responses than two dose schedules Using 2,4,6 month schedule, high rates of immunity were achieved one month post vaccination with Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM with adjuvant; which fell for serogroups A and C by 12 months GMTs were higher for serogroup C using monovalent meningococcal C conjugate Good boosting at 12 months was demonstrated Lower GMTs for serogroups A, W135 and Y for those who received primary series with meningococcal C conjugate and then only one dose of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM at 12 months compared to those who received primary series and 12-month booster with Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM with adjuvant High percentages (\geq 90%) of children achieved protective titres for concomitantly administered antigens	Level 1	Good

EVIDENCE OF IMMUNOGENICITY FOR MEN-C-ACYW-135-CRM						
Study	Vaccine	Study Design	Participants	Outcomes	Level of Evidence	Quality
Perrett et al. 2009 ⁽³¹⁾ Phase II	Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM without adjuvant (Menveo™) Concomitant with Pediacel/Pentacel, Recombivax, Prevnar, MMR depending on routine schedules Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM used at 12 months in UK and some Canadians 1/5 unconjugated quadrivalent polysaccharide (Menomune) challenge at 12 months in some Canadians	Open-label controlled trial UK and Canada Canadians randomized at 12 months to Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM or 1/5 dose of quadrivalent polysaccharide vaccine	N=180 enrolled Received Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM at 2, 4 months 12 month dose in UK was Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM 12 month challenge in Canada with Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM or 1/5 dose of quadrivalent polysaccharide vaccine	hSBA ≥1:4 used as measure of immunity High rates of immunity were achieved one month post vaccination with Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM which fell for all serogroups by 12 months Good boosting at 12 months was demonstrated High percentages of children achieved protective titres for most concomitantly administered antigens (except <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b and some pneumococcal serotypes in Canada) given that only two doses received at time of blood draw in Canadian children	Level I	Good
Halperin et al. ⁽³²⁾ Phase II	Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) Compared to monovalent meningococcal C conjugate (Menjugate) Concomitant with Pentacel, Prevnar	Open labelled, partially randomized, controlled Three centres in Canada	N=175 enrolled to one of three schedules Ages 6-12 months at enrollment Three groups: Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM at 6 and 12 months; Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM at 12 months; Monovalent meningococcal C conjugate at 12 months and Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM at 18 months	hSBA ≥1:4 used as measure of immunity Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM at 6 and 12 months had the best immune response for all serogroups except serogroup C which was exceeded by the monovalent meningococcal C conjugate vaccine at 12 months and Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM at 18 month schedule For serogroup C, the monovalent conjugate C vaccine and Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM vaccines had similar responses at 12 months For serogroups A, W135 and Y, the responses to a single Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM 12 months or 18 months were similar and acceptable although less than the response achieved by two doses of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM at 6 and 12 months	Level 1 Children at 6 months of age at study entry were randomized to 2 doses of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM at 6 and 12 months or a single dose at 12 months Children at 12 months of age at study entry all received monovalent meningococcal C conjugate at 12 months and Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM at 18 months	Good

EVIDENCE OF IMMUNOGENICITY FOR MEN-C-ACYW-135-CRM						
Study	Vaccine	Study Design	Participants	Outcomes	Level of Evidence	Quality
Vesikari T et al. ⁽³³⁾	Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM One dose versus two Boost with Men-P-ACYW-135 polysaccharide vaccine at 8 months post vaccination	Dose finding study Allocation of subjects not described in abstract Conducted in Finland and Germany	N=620 enrolled Ages 12–16 months Received one or two doses of various formulations Quadrivalent polysaccharide booster 8 months post-vaccination compared to naïve controls	hSBA \geq 1:4 used as measure of immunity Two doses had better immune response than one with percentage achieving hSBA \geq 1:4 49–70% for the various serogroups after one dose and 91–96% after two doses Good boosting with quadrivalent polysaccharide vaccine 8 months after first dose	Not enough information in the abstract to assess	Not enough information in the abstract to assess
Black et al. ⁽²⁷⁾ Phase II	Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) Compared to unconjugated quadrivalent polysaccharide (Men-P-ACYW-135 – Menomune)	Single blinded randomized trial Oakland, California	N=619 enrolled to one of the two vaccines 2–10 year olds Single dose	hSBA \geq 1:4 used as measure of immunity Immunity to Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM was statistically superior to Men-P-ACYW-135 at 1 and 12 months after vaccination for almost every serogroup using percent achieving hSBA \geq 1:4 and GMTs For Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM, high rates of immunity were achieved one month post vaccination which fell for serogroups A and C by 12 months post-vaccination	Level 1	Good – single centre
Halperin et al. ⁽³⁰⁾⁽³⁴⁾ Phase III	Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) compared to Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™) 2–5 year olds received one dose or two doses of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM or one dose of Men-C-ACYW-135-D 6–10 year olds received one dose of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM or Men-C-ACYW-135-D	Partially observer blinded randomized trial	N= 2,907 children 2–10 years of age	hSBA \geq 1: 8 used as measure of immunity Comparing Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM to Men-C-ACYW-135-D using percent achieving hSBA \geq 1:8, response lower for serogroup A, non-inferior for serogroup C and statistically superior for serogroups W135 and Y Based on GMTs, Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM was non-inferior to Men-C-ACYW-135-D for serogroup A and statistically superior for serogroups C, W135 and Y For 2–5 year olds, 2 doses of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM given 60 days apart had a better immune response than one dose	Level 1	Good

EVIDENCE OF IMMUNOGENICITY FOR MEN-C-ACYW-135-CRM						
Study	Vaccine	Study Design	Participants	Outcomes	Level of Evidence	Quality
Jackson et al. 2009 Phase II ⁽³⁵⁾	Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM with adjuvant Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM without adjuvant (Menveo™) Compared to unconjugated quadrivalent polysaccharide (Men-P-ACYW-135 – Menomune)	Single blinded randomized controlled trial 3 sites in US	N= 524 enrolled to one of the three vaccines 11–17 year olds Single dose	hSBA ≥1:4 and ≥1: 8 used as measure of immunity Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM with or without adjuvant was statistically superior to Men-P-ACYW-135 for almost all serogroups at one month post-vaccination Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM with and without the adjuvant had similar immune responses at 1 month post vaccination Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM without adjuvant (Menveo™) had good persistence of immunity at 12 months post vaccination for all serogroups except serogroup A	Level 1	Good
Jackson et al. 2009 ⁽³⁶⁾ Phase III	Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM without adjuvant (Menveo™) Compared to Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™)	Observer blinded randomized controlled trial 44 centers in US	N=2180 enrolled to one of two vaccines, although not all subjects tested for all serogroups due to limited human complement 11–18 year olds Single dose	hSBA ≥1: 8 used as measure of immunity Based on percentage achieving hSBA >=1:8 at one month post-vaccination, Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM superior to Men-C-ACYW-135-D for all serogroups except C which was non-inferior Based on GMTs at one month post-vaccination, Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM superior to Men-C-ACYW-135-D for all serogroups	Level 1	Good
Gill et al. ⁽³⁷⁾	Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM without adjuvant (Menveo™) Compared to Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™) Age-matched unvaccinated controls	Median of 22 month follow-up of a subset of subjects from Jackson's phase III study above ⁽³⁶⁾	278 people vaccinated at 11–18 years of age with Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM 191 people vaccinated at 11–18 years of age with Men-C-ACYW-135-D 128 unvaccinated controls	At median of 22 months post vaccination, percent hSBA ≥1: 8 statistically significantly higher for Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM compared to Men-C-ACYW-135-D for serogroups A, W135 and Y and non-statistically significantly higher for serogroup C; GMTs statistically significantly higher for Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM compared to Men-C-ACYW-135-D for serogroups A and Y and non-statistically significantly higher for serogroups C and W-135.	Level 1	Good

EVIDENCE OF IMMUNOGENICITY FOR MEN-C-ACYW-135-CRM						
Study	Vaccine	Study Design	Participants	Outcomes	Level of Evidence	Quality
Reisinger et al. 2009 Phase III ⁽³⁸⁾	Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM without adjuvant (Menveo™) Compared to Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™)	Randomized controlled trial 44 centers in the US	N= 1359 enrolled to one of two vaccines 19–55 year olds Single dose	hSBA ≥1: 8 used as measure of immunity Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM superior to Men-C-ACYW-135-D for serogroups C and Y and non-inferior for W135 and A, based on percent achieving hSBA ≥1:8 at one month post-vaccination Based on GMTs at one month post-vaccination, Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM superior to Men-C-ACYW-135-D for all serogroups except serogroup A where Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM was non-inferior.	Level 1	Good
Gill CJ et al ⁽³⁹⁾	Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM without adjuvant (Menveo™) in 19–65 year olds Compared to Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™) in 19–55 year olds Compared to unconjugated quadrivalent polysaccharide (Men-P-ACYW-135 – Menomune) in 56–65 year olds	Two multicentered, observer-blinded randomized controlled trials Conducted in the US and Latin America	N= 3864 19–55 year olds and 326 56–65 year olds	Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM non-inferior to both comparator vaccines for all serogroups using primary endpoints and statistically higher for some serogroups In the 56–65 year age group, GMTs 1.4 to 5-fold higher for Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM compared to Men-P-ACYW-135	Level 1	Good Poster only so difficult to assess full methodology
Arguedas, A et al. Phase III ⁽⁴¹⁾	Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) given with Tdap and HPV Compared to Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM given one month before or after Tdap and HPV beginning one month later	Open label randomized controlled trial One center in Costa Rica	N=1620 enrolled to one of three groups 11–18 yr olds	Seroresponse to serogroup W135 and Y were lower at one month post-vaccination if Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM given one month after Tdap but percent achieving hSBA ≥1:8 comparable Filamentous hemagglutinin and pertactin had lower responses if given concomitantly than if Tdap given alone Highest seroresponses for pertussis antigens if Tdap given one month after Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM	Level 1	Good
Gasparini et al ⁽⁴²⁾	Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) given with Tdap Compared to Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM given alone with a placebo, and Tdap given alone with a placebo	Observer-blinded, randomized controlled, study Multicenter trial	N=1072 enrolled in one of three groups 11–25 year olds	Pertussis toxoid, filamentous hemagglutinin and pertactin had slightly lower responses if given concomitantly with Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM than if Tdap given alone	Level 1	Good

EVIDENCE OF IMMUNOGENICITY FOR MEN-C-ACYW-135-D ADMINISTERED WITH TDAP AND HPV VACCINES						
Study	Vaccine	Study Design	Participants	Outcomes	Level of Evidence	Quality
Reisinger KS et al ⁽⁴³⁾ 2009	Men-C-ACYW-135-D with human papillomavirus vaccine and Tdap administered concomitantly Compared to human papillomavirus vaccine given alone and Men-C-ACYW-135-D and Tdap given together	Open-label randomized controlled trial 21 sites in the US	N=394 girls and 648 boys randomized to two groups 10–17 years old Group A received the HPV vaccine on day 1 and at month 2 and 6 and Men-C-ACYW-135-D and Tdap on day 1; and Group B received the HPV on day 1, and at month 2 and 6 and Men-C-ACYW-135-D and Tdap at month 1	SBA levels for meningococcal serogroups (not indicated if human or rabbit complement) Non-inferiority for all antigens in concomitant group where all three vaccines given on the same day compared to HPV given alone and Men-C-ACYW-135-D and Tdap given on the same day one month after first HPV	Level 1	Fair – Comparison involved Men-C-ACYW-135-D and Tdap given together instead of each vaccine alone

EVIDENCE FOR IMMUNOGENICITY WHEN CRM ₁₉₇ – CONTAINING MENINGOCOCCAL CONJUGATE VACCINE ADMINISTERED WITH 13-VALENT PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINE						
Study	Vaccine	Study Design	Participants	Outcomes	Level of Evidence	Quality
Domingo-Diez et al. ⁽⁴⁴⁾ 2009	Monovalent meningococcal C CRM ₁₉₇ -containing conjugate vaccine administered concomitantly with either 13-valent or 7-valent pneumococcal vaccines and other routine childhood immunizations	Randomized controlled trial 35 sites in Spain	N=621 infants enrolled at 2 months of age Meningococcal C and pneumococcal vaccines (either 13-valent or 7-valent) given at 2 and 4 months; pneumococcal vaccine given at 6 months; meningococcal C and pneumococcal vaccine given at 15 months	SBA levels (not indicated if human or rabbit complement) GMTs to meningococcal C were lower in the group that received the 13-valent pneumococcal vaccine compared to the group that received the 7 valent vaccine; the difference was most marked at 16-months of age however the percent responders was >97% in both groups	Level 1	Good – poster

EVIDENCE FOR SAFETY OF MEN-C-ACYW-135-CRM						
Study	Vaccine	Study Design	Participants	Outcomes	Level of Evidence	Quality
Snape et al. 2008 ⁽²⁸⁾	See above Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM with adjuvant Concomitant with Pediacel/Pentacel, Recombivax, Prevnar, MMR depending on routine schedules	See Above Parents recorded local and systemic reactions in week after each vaccine dose Phone calls to parents in the week after vaccination, monthly between infant and toddler doses and 6 months after final study immunization	See Above	Rates of local and systemic reactions after Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM with adjuvant similar to monovalent meningococcal C conjugate (Menjugate) Two serious adverse events thought to be possibly related to Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM with adjuvant: idiopathic thrombocytopenia purpura and supraventricular tachycardia	Level 1	Good

EVIDENCE FOR SAFETY OF MEN-C-ACYW-135-CRM						
Study	Vaccine	Study Design	Participants	Outcomes	Level of Evidence	Quality
Perrett et al. 2009 ⁽³¹⁾	See above Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM without adjuvant Concomitant with Pediacel/Pentacel, Recombivax, Prevnar, MMR depending on routine schedules	See Above Parents recorded local and systemic reactions and medication use in 7 days after each vaccine dose Parents reported any physician visit and serious adverse events Phone calls to parents after vaccination, monthly between infant and toddler doses and 5 months after final study visit	See above	Grade 3 tenderness at injection site in 2–4 % after at least one infant dose and 0–1% after 12 month booster of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM without adjuvant No serious adverse events attributed to vaccine	Level 1	Good
Halperin et al. ⁽³²⁾ Phase II	Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM without adjuvant Compared to monovalent meningococcal C conjugate (Menjugate) Concomitant with Pentacel, Prevnar	See above Parents recorded local and systemic reactions for 7 days after each vaccine dose Hospitalizations and other serious adverse events collected at any time during study	See above	No clear difference in frequency of adverse events between monovalent meningococcal C conjugate vaccine and Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM No serious adverse events determined to be vaccine-related	Level 1	Good
Black et al. ⁽²⁷⁾ Phase II	Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) Compared to unconjugated quadrivalent polysaccharide (Men-P-ACYW-135 – Menomune)	See above Parents recorded local and systemic reactions between days 1 and 7 after vaccination Investigators recorded adverse events requiring medical attention within 1 month after vaccination and medically significant events up to 12 months post-vaccination	See above	Statistically significantly more local and systemic reactions noted with Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM compared to Men-P-ACYW-135 No serious adverse vaccine reactions judged to be related to vaccine	Level 1	Good – single centre
Gill CJ et al. ⁽⁵¹⁾ Halperin et al. ⁽³⁴⁾	Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) compared to Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™) 2–5 year olds received one dose or two doses of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM or one dose of Men-C-ACYW-135-D 6–10 year olds received one dose of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM or Men-C-ACYW-135-D	Recorded all adverse events for 7 days post vaccination	See above Halperin et al Phase III study involving 2–10 year olds above	Percentage of children with local and systemic reactions similar between Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM and Men-C-ACYW-135-D No serious adverse events considered related to study vaccines	Level 1	Good

EVIDENCE FOR SAFETY OF MEN-C-ACYW-135-CRM						
Study	Vaccine	Study Design	Participants	Outcomes	Level of Evidence	Quality
Jackson et al. 2009 Phase II ⁽³⁵⁾	Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM with and without adjuvant Compared to unconjugated quadrivalent polysaccharide (Men-P-ACYW-135 – Menomune)	See above Reactogenicity data collected by recipients for 7 days post –vaccination Telephone interview conducted on day 3 post-vaccination Serious and medically significant events recorded by investigators for 12 months	See above	Using Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM without adjuvant, nausea only solicited event statistically significantly more common compared to Men-P-ACYW-135 More unsolicited adverse events possibly or probably related to vaccine using Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM unadjuvanted compared to Men-P-ACYW-135 (6.6% of recipients versus 2.6%) No serious adverse events were assessed as related to vaccine.	Level 1	Good
Jackson et al. 2009 Phase III ⁽³⁶⁾	Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM without adjuvant (Menveo™) Compared to Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™)	See above Local and systemic side effects recorded by recipients for 7 days post –vaccination Reminder telephone calls on day 3 post-vaccination Serious and medically significant events recorded by investigators for 6 months	See above	Local and systemic solicited adverse events were similar in the Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM and Men-C-ACYW-135-D groups with pain at the injection site occurring in 44% of Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM recipients and 53% of the Men-C-ACYW-135-D recipients; most of which were mild Similar rates of unsolicited adverse reactions were reported between both groups No serious adverse reactions were considered to be related to the study vaccines	Level 1	Good
Reisinger K, ⁽³⁸⁾ et al. 2008	Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM without adjuvant Menveo™ Compared to Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™)	See above Local and systemic side effects recorded by recipients between days 1–7 post –vaccination Adverse events requiring medical attention recorded for one month post-vaccination and medically significant and serious adverse events recorded for 6 months post-vaccination	See Above	Similar reactogenicity profile between Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM and Men-C-ACYW-135-D with rates of local reactions slightly higher with Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM and systemic reactions slightly higher with Men-C-ACYW-135-D No serious adverse events were considered possibly or probably related to the vaccine	Level 1	Good

EVIDENCE FOR SAFETY OF MEN-C-ACYW-135-CRM						
Study	Vaccine	Study Design	Participants	Outcomes	Level of Evidence	Quality
Gill CJ et al ⁽³⁹⁾	Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM without adjuvant (Menveo™) in 19–65 year olds Compared to Men-C-ACYW-135-D (Menactra™) in 19–55 year olds Compared to unconjugated quadrivalent polysaccharide (Men-P-ACYW-135 – Menomune) in 56–65 year olds	See above Solicited injection site and systemic reactions for 7 days post-vaccination Adverse events for 6 months post-vaccination	See above	Rates of solicited local and systemic reactions similar among vaccine groups	Level 1	Good Poster only so difficult to assess full methodology
Arguedas, A et al. ⁽⁴¹⁾	Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) given with Tdap and HPV Compared to Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM given one month before or after Tdap and HPV beginning one month later	See above Solicited local and systemic reactions were recorded for 7 days post-vaccination; other adverse reactions were recorded for one month post-vaccination	See Above	Rates of local reactions were similar when Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM administered concomitantly or separately Slightly higher reports of systemic reaction when Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM administered concomitantly (58%) than when given alone (51%) or after Tdap (43%) No serious adverse events were considered possibly or probably related to the vaccine	Level 1	Good
Gasparini et al ⁽⁴²⁾	Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) given with Tdap Compared to Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM given alone with a placebo, and Tdap given alone with a placebo	See above Local and systemic side effects and axillary temperature recorded by recipients or their parents between days 1–7 post-vaccination Adverse events requiring medical attention recorded for one month post-vaccination and medically significant and serious adverse events recorded for 6 months post-vaccination	See above	No clinically significant vaccine adverse events noted. Local and systemic reactions were generally reported more frequently in the concomitant group and in the Tdap alone group, compared to the Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM alone group.	Level 1	Good

EVIDENCE OF SAFETY OF MEN-C-ACYW-135-D ADMINISTERED WITH TDAP AND HPV VACCINES						
Study	Vaccine	Study Design	Participants	Outcomes	Level of Evidence	Quality
ReisingerKS, et al. ⁽⁴³⁾	Men-C-ACYW-135-D with human papillomavirus vaccine and Tdap administered concomitantly Compared to human papillomavirus vaccine given alone and Men-C-ACYW-135-D and Tdap given together	See above On a report card, reported temperature and injection site reactions for 5 days after each vaccination and systemic reactions for 14 days after each vaccination 15 days or more after each vaccination only deaths or serious reactions felt by the investigator to be vaccine or study related were reported	See above	Higher local reactions in the concomitant group, with more injection site swelling in the HPV arm compared to when HPV given alone and more bruising and pain in the Men-C-ACYW-135-D and Tdap arm when given on the same day as HPV compared to when only Men-C-ACYW-135-D and Tdap given on the same day. No serious reactions in either group following Men-C-ACYW-135-D and Tdap	Level 1	Fair – Comparison involved Men-C-ACYW-135-D and Tdap given together instead of each vaccine alone

TABLE 9: Levels of Evidence Based on Research Design

I	Evidence from randomized controlled trial(s).
II-1	Evidence from controlled trial(s) without randomization.
II-2	Evidence from cohort or case-control analytic studies, preferably from more than one centre or research group using clinical outcome measures of vaccine efficacy.
II-3	Evidence obtained from multiple time series with or without the intervention. Dramatic results in uncontrolled experiments (such as the results of the introduction of penicillin treatment in the 1940s) could also be regarded as this type of evidence.
III	Opinions of respected authorities, based on clinical experience, descriptive studies and case reports, or reports of expert committees.

TABLE 10: Quality (internal validity) Rating of Evidence

Good	A study (including meta-analyses or systematic reviews) that meets all design- specific criteria* well.
Fair	A study (including meta-analyses or systematic reviews) that does not meet (or it is not clear that it meets) at least one design-specific criterion* but has no known "fatal flaw".
Poor	A study (including meta-analyses or systematic reviews) that has at least one design-specific* "fatal flaw", or an accumulation of lesser flaws to the extent that the results of the study are not deemed able to inform recommendations.

* General design specific criteria are outlined in Harris et al., 2001.⁽⁵²⁾

TABLE 11: NACI Recommendation for Immunization – Grades

A	NACI concludes that there is good evidence to recommend immunization.
B	NACI concludes that there is fair evidence to recommend immunization.
C	NACI concludes that the existing evidence is conflicting and does not allow making a recommendation for or against immunization, however other factors may influence decision-making.
D	NACI concludes that there is fair evidence to recommend against immunization.
E	NACI concludes that there is good evidence to recommend against immunization.
I	NACI concludes that there is insufficient evidence (in either quantity and/or quality) to make a recommendation, however other factors may influence decision-making.

TABLE 12: Possible schedules for vaccinating children less than 2 years of age who are at high-risk for meningococcal disease due to medical conditions specified in this statement, travel or who are close contacts of invasive meningococcal disease caused by serogroups A, W135 or Y or to control outbreaks caused by these serogroups.

Age	Possible Schedules
2 months to less than 12 months of age	Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) 2 or 3 doses given 8 weeks apart* with another dose between 12 and 23 months and at least 8 weeks* from the previous dose
12 to 23 months of age	Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) 2 doses at least 8 weeks apart*

* Minimum interval of 4 weeks if rapid protection is required

Note: Men-C-ACYW-135-CRM (Menveo™) is not yet authorized for children less than 2 years of age, therefore, there are no authorized schedules for these children. The above schedules are based on schedules used in published clinical trials and NACI's previous recommendation that a dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine be given in the second year of life (12 to 23 months) for children vaccinated at less than 1 year of age.

Schedules for re-vaccination are outlined in this statement.

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