

## Protection from meningitis and septicaemia

### MenACWY vaccine

A new vaccination programme for all 17 and 18 year olds born between 01 September 1996 and 31 August 1997 and 1<sup>st</sup> Year university students under the age of 25.

This vaccine protects against meningitis (inflammation of the brain) and septicaemia (blood poisoning) caused by meningococcal groups A, C, W and Y.

- **Phone us as soon as possible 02920 353020 to arrange an appointment to have the vaccination**

It is very important that you take up the vaccine. It is being offered in response to a rapidly growing increase in cases of a highly aggressive strain of meningococcal disease group W. This disease can cause meningitis and septicemia that can kill in hours, and those who recover may be left severely disabled. The vaccine also protects against three other meningococcal groups too – A, C and Y.

### Going to university?

If you're planning to go to university, please make an appointment as soon as possible before leaving for university. You are at more risk of meningitis and septicaemia in the first weeks at university when you mix with lots of new people, some of whom may unknowingly carry the meningococcal bacteria, which is usually spread through prolonged close contact.

As the vaccine will also boost your protection against MenC, it replaces the "Freshers" MenC programme which has been in place for the past year.

If you decide not to have the vaccination please let us know so we can enter this on your medical records.

Further information on the vaccination programme and meningococcal disease can be found on NHS Choices at: <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations/Pages/men-acwy-vaccine.aspx>.