

Protocol for Delivering Neonatal BCG vaccine in London 2020/21



Protocol for Delivering Neonatal BCG vaccine in London 2020/21

Version: 2.0

December 2020

This protocol updates the BCG London Protocol published on 21st June 2019.

Contents

1. Introduction	2
2. Aim	3
3. Eligibility assessment	3
4. Referral pathways	4
4.1 Maternity pathway	4
Figure 1 – Eligibility flowchart for neonatal BCG	5
Out of Area Babies	5
Neonatal Unit/Special Care Babies	6
4.2 Health visitor and GP pathway	6
4.3 Self referral	6
Figure 2 - Referral pathways for BCG vaccination in London	8
5. Record Keeping, Monitoring and Surveillance	9
Appendices.....	10
Appendix 1 - Community providers by STP area	10

1. Introduction

1.1 From 1st September 2020 the way we deliver BCG vaccine to babies in London has changed:

- Neonatal BCG vaccine will no longer be available to all babies; instead it will be offered to those babies who are most at risk of tuberculosis (TB);
- Neonatal BCG vaccine will no longer be delivered in maternity units. Babies who are eligible for BCG will be referred to community vaccination clinics to be vaccinated.

1.2 The national BCG immunisation programme is delivered as a risk-based programme. A key part of this risk-based approach is the selective neonatal programme targeted at those infants most at risk of exposure to TB. Those most at risk are defined in the Green Book as:

- all infants (aged 0 to 12 months) with a parent or grandparent who was born in a country where the annual incidence of TB is 40/100,000 or greater
- all infants (aged 0 to 12 months) living in areas of the UK where the annual incidence of TB is 40/100,000 or greater.

1.3 In London, due to a historically higher annual incidence of TB, the BCG immunisation programme has been delivered universally to all newborn babies in many areas. However, the annual incidence of TB in London has been in decline, falling from a rate of over 40 per 100,000 in 2012 to a current overall rate of 19 per 100,000. Due to this, the number of infants most at risk of exposure to TB in London has also decreased significantly.

1.4 Therefore, from 1st September 2020, the neonatal BCG immunisation programme will no longer be available universally in London and will instead be targeted to those infants most at risk of exposure to TB. This will bring the London region in line with the rest of England.

2. Aim

- 2.1 The aim of the neonatal BCG immunisation programme is to prevent infection from TB and reduce the risk of progression to severe disease. London remains committed to further reducing TB incidence through its programme of work under the London TB Control Board.
- 2.2 This protocol clarifies how neonatal BCG is offered to infants aged 0-12 months in London. It should be read in conjunction with [the national BCG immunisation programme 2019/20 Service Specification](#).

3. Eligibility assessment

- 3.1 Babies are eligible for neonatal BCG if they are identified as at increased risk of TB.
- 3.2 Nationally, eligibility is assessed by a series of three questions to determine the risk to the baby. In London an additional question is currently used due to there being one London borough with TB incidence over the threshold value for universal vaccination. This requirement is likely to change in the near future as the incidence of TB continues to decrease across London.
- 3.3 An infant is eligible for neonatal BCG vaccination if the answer is yes to ANY of the following four questions:
- **Does your baby, the baby's mother, father, grandparents or anyone who lives with you come from a country with a high rate of TB?**
 - A list of countries with a high rate of TB is available online¹.
 - **Will you and your baby be going to live or stay with friends and family in one of these countries for 3 months or more?**

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tuberculosis-tb-by-country-rates-per-100000-people>

- A visit of 3 months or more to any of the countries listed above is required for eligibility for BCG.
- **Has anyone who lives with you or spends a lot of time with your baby had TB now or in the past 5 years?**
 - Spending time with someone who has TB now or has had TB in the last 5 years is required for eligibility for BCG.
- **Do you live in the London Borough of Newham²?**
 - Newham has an annual incidence of TB of over 40 per 100,000 according to the latest data. All newborn babies who live in Newham should be offered neonatal BCG.

4. Referral pathways

4.1 Maternity pathway

4.1.1 From 1st September 2020, when a baby is born in London, the maternity service is required to identify whether the baby is eligible for BCG immunisation. This should occur post-natally, preferably alongside the Newborn Infant Physical Examination (NIPE).

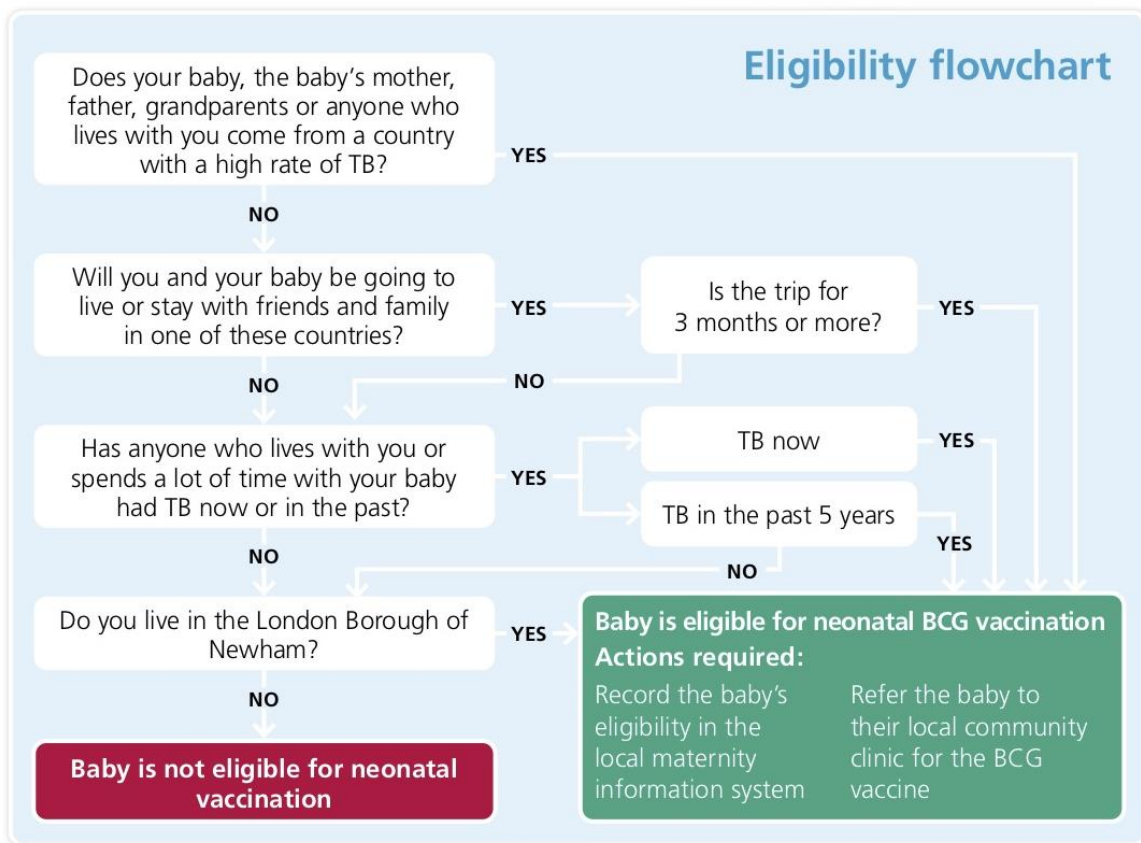
4.1.2 If a baby is identified as eligible for BCG immunisation then the maternity service should refer the baby to their local community BCG clinic for immunisation after birth. The NHSE London online referral form will generate an automatic referral on behalf of the maternity service to the community clinic:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=kp4VA8ZyI0umSq9Q55CtwIlsS2sc2J5LrOYYrLpNuGZUQVFFSklyR1ZNUDJLSEVUTFFERjkxVk9EWiQIQCN0PWcu>

4.1.3 Maternity services who are not using the NHSE London online form must regularly audit their service and report results to NHSE/I.

² This is the only remaining borough in London with an incidence over 40 per 100,000 population

Figure 1 – Eligibility flowchart for neonatal BCG



4.1.4 All BCG vaccinations will be offered in the community by the commissioned community providers. Details of the community providers, determined by infants' borough of residence, are included at [Appendix 1](#).

4.1.5 Providers delivering BCG clinics are required to accept referrals for all eligible babies.

Out of Area Babies

4.1.6 Babies born in London hospitals but who reside outside London should be assessed for BCG eligibility by the maternity unit. If they are eligible for BCG vaccination, they should be referred to the London community provider local to the maternity unit.

4.1.7 The NHSE London online form (link provided in section 4.1.2) will automatically refer the baby to the maternity unit's local clinic if the baby's postcode is not a London postcode. It is therefore important that the postcode entered on the form is correct.

4.1.8 Those maternity units not using the online form must ensure that they refer to the community provider local to the maternity unit.

Neonatal Unit/Special Care Babies

4.1.9 If a baby is admitted to Special Care (SCBU) or Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) shortly after birth, eligibility for BCG should be assessed by the neonatal team.

4.1.10 The baby should be referred to their community clinic for vaccination on discharge using the NHSE London online form (link provided in section 4.1.2). Referring on discharge will ensure the appointment is not scheduled while the baby is still in hospital.

4.2 Health visitor and GP pathway

4.2.1 Health visitors and GPs are required to identify which babies in their care are eligible for BCG immunisation and ensure they have been referred to their appropriate community clinic.

4.2.2 Eligibility should be assessed using the questions set out in section 3 of this protocol.

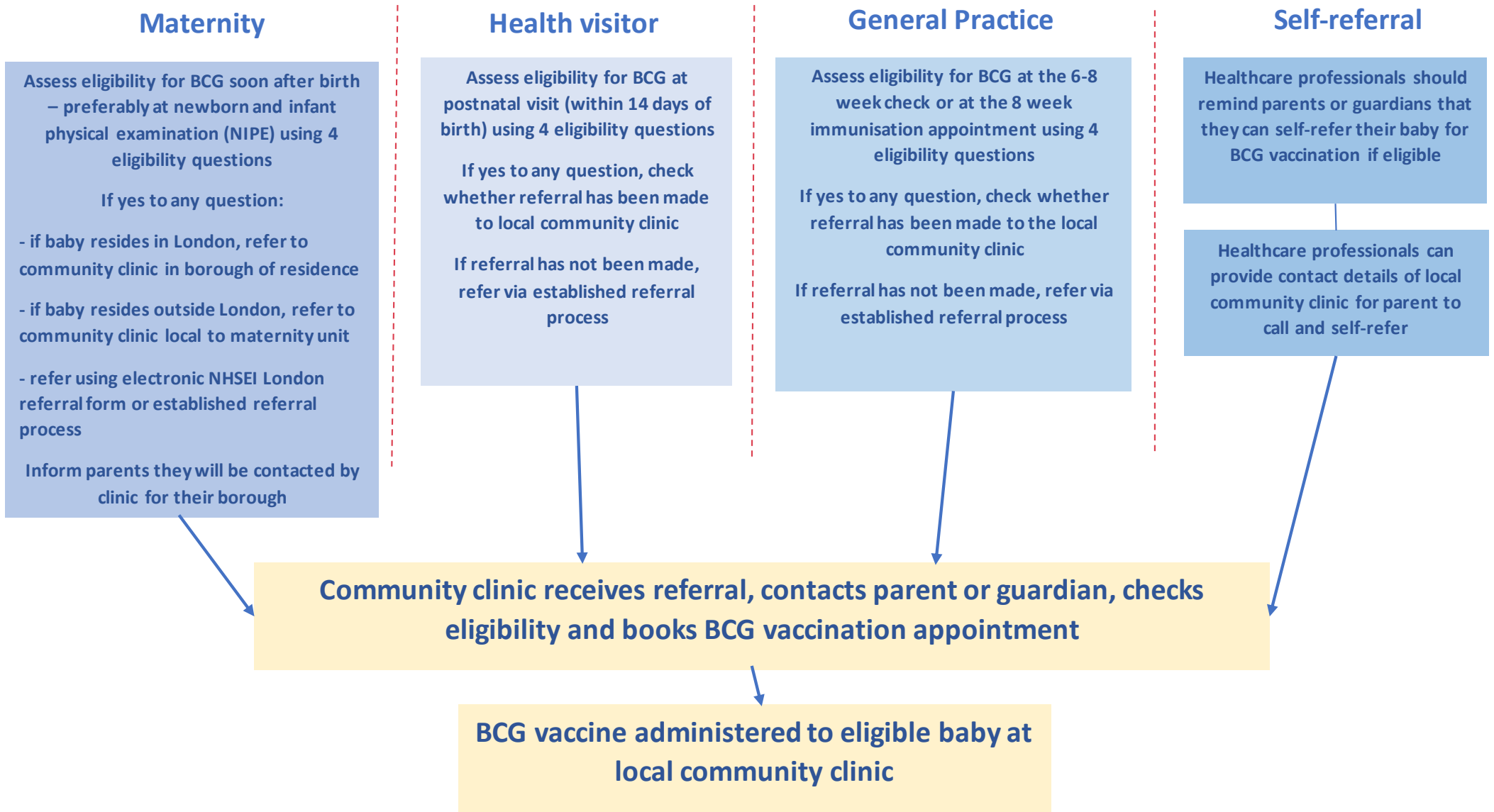
4.2.3 If a referral is required this should be done by the established referral route to the community provider.

4.3 Self-referral

4.3.1 A baby's parent or guardian can self-refer the baby to their community provider for BCG vaccination.

4.3.2 Community providers are expected to assess the eligibility of all babies who self-refer for BCG vaccination. Eligibility should be assessed using the questions set out in section 3 of this protocol.

Figure 2 - Referral pathways for BCG vaccination in London



5. Record Keeping, Monitoring and Surveillance

- 5.1 It is imperative that where the BCG vaccine has been given, the Child Health Information Service (CHIS), the GP and the child's red book (child development record) are updated.
- 5.2 Community providers will be required to keep the NHSE London Immunisation Team updated on process and uptake and provide monthly returns, including Did Not Attends (DNAs).
- 5.3 Uptake data are reviewed at the quarterly NHSE hosted STP Immunisation Performance and Quality Boards, the CHIS Performance Board and the London Immunisation Business Group (on behalf of the London Immunisation Partnership Board).
- 5.4 There will be regular audits undertaken by the NHSE London immunisation commissioning team. Providers are expected to comply with requests for information.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Community providers by STP area

Infant residence borough	Community BCG vaccine provider and clinic address	Referral contact details
North West London		
Brent	Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust (CNWL) Belsize Priory Clinic, 208 Belsize Road, London NW6 4DX	patriciastephens@nhs.net
Ealing	Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust (CNWL) The Warren Clinic, The Warren Health Centre, Uxbridge Road, Hayes, Middlesex UB4 0SF	cnw-tr.immunisationteam@nhs.net
Hammersmith & Fulham	Central London Community Health (CLCH) Parsons Green Health Centre, 5-7 Parsons Green, London, SW6 4UL	clcht.clchbcginners@nhs.net
Harrow	Central London Community Health (CLCH) Alexandra Avenue Health and Social Care Centre, 275 Alexandra Avenue, Harrow HA2 9DX	clcht.harrowandbarnetbcg@nhs.net

Infant residence borough	Community BCG vaccine provider and clinic address	Referral contact details
Hillingdon	Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust (CNWL) The Warren Clinic, The Warren Health Centre, Uxbridge Road, Hayes, Middlesex UB4 0SF	cnw-tr.immunisationteam@nhs.net
Hounslow	Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare (HRCH) Brentford Health Centre, Boston Manor Rd, Brentford TW8 8DS	hrch.bcg@nhs.net
Kensington & Chelsea	Central London Community Health (CLCH) Colville Health Centre, 51 Kensington Park Road, London, W11 1PA	clcht.clchbcginners@nhs.net
Westminster	Central London Community Health (CLCH) Lisson Grove Health centre, Gateforth Street, London, NW8 8EG	clcht.clchbcginners@nhs.net
North & East London		
Barking & Dagenham	NELFT NHS Foundation Trust Child & family centre, 79 Axe St, Barking, Essex, IG11 7LZ	nem-tr.NELCSCchildrensimmunisations@nhs.net
Barnet	Central London Community Health (CLCH) Mill Hill Clinic, Hartley Avenue, London NW7 2HX	clcht.harrowandbarnetbcg@nhs.net

Infant residence borough	Community BCG vaccine provider and clinic address	Referral contact details
Camden	Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust (CNWL) Peckwater Centre, 6 Peckwater Street, London NW5 2TX	patriciastephens@nhs.net
Enfield	Vaccination UK Vicarage Lane Health Centre, Stratford, E15 4ES	Newham.bcg@nhs.net
Hackney	The Lawson Practice 85 Nuttall Street, N1 5HZ	lawson.practice@nhs.net
Haringey	Whittington Health Child Development Centre, M2 Ward, St Ann's Hospital, St Ann's Road, N15 3TH	whh-tr.bcgimmunisationreferral@nhs.net
Havering	NELFT NHS Foundation Trust Child & family centre, 79 Axe street, Barking. Essex, IG11 7LZ	nem-tr.NELCSCchildrensimmunisations@nhs.net
Islington	Whittington Health Northern Health Centre, 580 Holloway road, London N7 6LB	whh-tr.bcgimmunisationreferral@nhs.net
Newham	Vaccination UK Vicarage Lane Health Centre, Stratford, E15 4ES	Newham.bcg@nhs.net

Infant residence borough	Community BCG vaccine provider and clinic address	Referral contact details
Redbridge	NELFT NHS Foundation Trust Newbury Park Health Centre, 40 Perrymans Farm Rd, Newbury Park, IG2 7LE	nem-tr.NELCSChildrensImmunisations@nhs.net
Tower Hamlets	Vaccination UK Newby place, 21 Newby Place, E14 0EY	towerhamlets.bcg@nhs.net
Waltham Forest	NELFT NHS Foundation Trust Chingford Health Centre, 109 York Rd, E4 8LF	nem-tr.NELCSChildrensImmunisations@nhs.net
South West London		
Croydon	Croydon Health Croydon University Hospital, The Willows, Ground Floor, Yellow Zone, Woodcroft Wing, 530 London Road Croydon CR7 7YE	CH-TR.croydonbcg@nhs.net
Kingston	Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare (HRCH) Whitton Community Centre, Percy Rd, Whitton TW2 6JL (awaiting new venue)	hrch.bcg@nhs.net
Merton	Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare (HRCH) Church Rd Children's Centre, 243 Church Rd, CR4 3LS	hrch.bcg@nhs.net

Infant residence borough	Community BCG vaccine provider and clinic address	Referral contact details
Richmond	Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare (HRCH) Whitton Community Centre, Percy Rd, Whitton, TW2 6JL	hrch.bcg@nhs.net
Sutton	Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare (HRCH) Trinity Church, Cheam Rd, Sutton SM11DZ	hrch.bcg@nhs.net
Wandsworth	Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare (HRCH) Yvonne Carr Children's Centre, 2 Thessaly Rd, SW8 4HT	hrch.bcg@nhs.net
South East London		
Bexley	Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare (HRCH) Belvedere Community Centre, Mitchell Close, Belvedere DA17 6AA	hrch.bcg@nhs.net
Bromley	Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare (HRCH) 1A High Street, Chislehurst, BR75AB	hrch.bcg@nhs.net
Greenwich	Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare (HRCH) Brookhill Children's Centre, 42 Brumwell Ave, SE18 6AB	hrch.bcg@nhs.net
Lewisham	Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust Kaleidoscope, 32 Rushey Green, SE6 4JF Lee Health Centre, 2 Handen Road, SE12 8NP Waldron Health centre, Amersham Vale, SE14 6LD	LH.immunisation@nhs.net

Infant residence borough	Community BCG vaccine provider and clinic address	Referral contact details
Southwark	Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust Gracefield Gardens Health and Social Care Centre, 2-8 Gracefield Gardens, London, SW16 2ST	gst-tr.immunisationteam@nhs.net
Lambeth	Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust Gracefield Gardens Health and Social Care Centre, 2-8 Gracefield Gardens, London, SW16 2ST	gst-tr.immunisationteam@nhs.net