

Type:	Change Request
Reference:	1943
Version No:	1.0
Subject:	Cover of Vaccination Evaluated Rapidly (COVER) Central Return Data Set Version 2.4
Effective Date:	1 April 2026
Reason for Change:	Change to Information Standards
Publication Date:	13 January 2026

Background:

The Cover of Vaccination Evaluated Rapidly (COVER) Central Return Data Set Version 2.3 was approved by the Data Coordination Board (DCB) as [DCB0089: Cover of Vaccination Evaluated Rapidly \(COVER\)](#).

The Cover of Vaccination Evaluated Rapidly (COVER) Central Return Data Set is used to evaluate the routine childhood immunisation programme in England for children up to 5 years of age. The aim is to collect and report uptake for all eligible children at three months (Tuberculosis (BCG) only), one, two and five years on a quarterly and annual basis.

A number of changes have been identified since the last version, and the Cover of Vaccination Evaluated Rapidly (COVER) Central Return Data Set Version 2.4 includes:

- CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE FOR COVER Attribute National Codes 132 - Hepatitis B (Hep B) - Selective and 140 - Tuberculosis (BCG) were erroneously retired from the COVER Central Return Data Set; These codes are still part of the National Immunisation Programme, therefore they have been reinstated.
- An additional dose of Hib-containing multivalent vaccine (such as the DTaP/IPV/Hib/HepB which is also given earlier in infancy) should be given at 18 months, is recorded using attribute CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE COMBINED FOR COVER.
- There are plans to replace MMR - Measles, Mumps and Rubella with the MMRV (Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Varicella) vaccine; Therefore, Varicella coverage needs to be recorded for the first time.
- New national codes 181 - Varicella 1 and 182 - Varicella 2 have been added to the attribute CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE FOR COVER and 331 - MMRV - Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Varicella to CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE COMBINED FOR COVER.
- The UK Health Security Agency is now mandated to produce the annual Cover of Vaccination Evaluated Rapidly (COVER) statistics.

To support the Information Standard, this Change Request updates the NHS Data Model and Dictionary to introduce the Cover of Vaccination Evaluated Rapidly (COVER) Central Return Data Set Version 2.4.

A short demonstration is available which describes "How to Read an NHS Data Model and Dictionary Change Request", in an easy to understand screen capture including a voice over and readable captions. This demonstration can be viewed at: https://datadictionary.nhs.uk/elearning/change_request/index.html.

Note: if the web page does not open, please copy the link and paste into the web browser. A guide to how to use the demonstration can be found at: [Demonstrations](#).

Summary of changes:

Data Set

[COVER OF VACCINATION EVALUATED RAPIDLY \(COVER\) DATA SET](#) Changed Description

Supporting Information

[COVER OF VACCINATION EVALUATED RAPIDLY \(COVER\) DATA SET OVERVIEW](#) Changed Description

Class Definitions

[CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION STATUS](#) Changed Attributes

Attribute Definitions

[CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE COMBINED FOR COVER](#) renamed from [CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE COMBINED](#) Changed Description, Name, Properties

[CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE FOR COVER](#) Changed Description

Data Elements

[CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE \(COVER HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIGEN POSITIVE MOTHER\)](#) Changed Description, linked Attribute

[CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE \(COVER TUBERCULOSIS BCG\)](#) Changed Description, linked Attribute

[CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE COMBINED \(COVER\)](#) Changed Description

[CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE COMBINED \(COVER HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIGEN POSITIVE MOTHER\)](#) Changed Description

[ELIGIBLE POPULATION TOTAL \(COVER\)](#) Changed Description

Date: 13 October 2025

Sponsor: Julie Yates, Deputy Director, Immunisation Programmes, Design, Implementation and Clinical Guidance, United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA)

Note: New text is shown with a blue background. Deleted text is crossed out. Retired text is shown in grey. Within the Diagrams deleted classes and relationships are red, changed items are blue and new items are green.

COVER OF VACCINATION EVALUATED RAPIDLY (COVER) DATA SET

Change to Data Set: Changed Description

SUBMISSION IDENTIFIER

To carry details of the providing organisation and reporting period. One occurrence of this group is required.

M	Data Set Data Elements
M	ORGANISATION IDENTIFIER (RESIDENCE RESPONSIBILITY)
M	GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTICE (PATIENT REGISTRATION)
M	REPORTING PERIOD START DATE

M | [REPORTING PERIOD END DATE](#)

PRIMARY IMMUNISATIONS 12 MONTH COHORT

~~To carry details of completed primary immunisations at 12 months. Multiple occurrences of this group are permitted, one for each Childhood Immunisation Type reported.~~

To carry details of completed primary immunisations at 12 months. Multiple occurrences of this group are permitted, one for each type of childhood immunisation reported.

M	Data Set Data Elements
M	CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE (COVER) or CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE COMBINED (COVER)
M	ELIGIBLE POPULATION TOTAL (COVER)
M	ELIGIBLE POPULATION IMMUNISED PERCENTAGE (COVER)

PRIMARY IMMUNISATIONS 24 MONTH COHORT

~~To carry details of completed primary immunisations at 24 months. Multiple occurrences of this group are permitted, one for each Childhood Immunisation Type reported.~~

To carry details of completed primary immunisations at 24 months. Multiple occurrences of this group are permitted, one for each type of childhood immunisation reported.

M	Data Set Data Elements
M	CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE (COVER) or CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE COMBINED (COVER)
M	ELIGIBLE POPULATION TOTAL (COVER)
M	ELIGIBLE POPULATION IMMUNISED PERCENTAGE (COVER)

PRIMARY IMMUNISATIONS and BOOSTERS 5 YEAR COHORT

~~To carry details of completed primary immunisations and boosters at 5 years. Multiple occurrences of this group are permitted, one for each Childhood Immunisation Type reported.~~

To carry details of completed primary immunisations and boosters at 5 years. Multiple occurrences of this group are permitted, one for each type of childhood immunisation reported.

M	Data Set Data Elements
M	CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE (COVER) or CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE COMBINED (COVER)
M	ELIGIBLE POPULATION TOTAL (COVER)
M	ELIGIBLE POPULATION IMMUNISED PERCENTAGE (COVER)

HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIGEN POSITIVE MOTHERS 12 MONTH COHORT

To carry details of Neonatal Hepatitis B coverage at 12 months.
Multiple occurrences of this group are permitted, one for each Childhood Immunisation Type reported.

To carry details of Neonatal Hepatitis B coverage at 12 months.
Multiple occurrences of this group are permitted, one for each type of childhood immunisation reported.

M	Data Set Data Elements
M	CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE (COVER HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIGEN POSITIVE MOTHER) or CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE COMBINED (COVER HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIGEN POSITIVE MOTHER)
M	ELIGIBLE POPULATION TOTAL (COVER HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIGEN POSITIVE MOTHER)
M	ELIGIBLE POPULATION IMMUNISED PERCENTAGE (COVER HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIGEN POSITIVE MOTHER)

HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIGEN POSITIVE MOTHERS 24 MONTH COHORT

To carry details of Neonatal Hepatitis B coverage at 24 months.
Multiple occurrences of this group are permitted, one for each Childhood Immunisation Type reported.

To carry details of Neonatal Hepatitis B coverage at 24 months.
Multiple occurrences of this group are permitted, one for each type of childhood immunisation reported.

M	Data Set Data Elements
M	CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE (COVER HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIGEN POSITIVE MOTHER) or CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE COMBINED (COVER HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIGEN POSITIVE MOTHER)
M	ELIGIBLE POPULATION TOTAL (COVER HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIGEN POSITIVE MOTHER)
M	ELIGIBLE POPULATION IMMUNISED PERCENTAGE (COVER HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIGEN POSITIVE MOTHER)

TUBERCULOSIS (BCG) 3 MONTH COHORT

To carry details of Tuberculosis (BCG) coverage at 3 months.
One occurrence of this group is required.

M	Data Set Data Elements
M	CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE (COVER TUBERCULOSIS BCG)
M	ELIGIBLE POPULATION TOTAL (COVER TUBERCULOSIS BCG)
M	ELIGIBLE POPULATION IMMUNISED PERCENTAGE (COVER TUBERCULOSIS BCG)

TUBERCULOSIS (BCG) 12 MONTH COHORT

To carry details of Tuberculosis (BCG) coverage at 12 months.
One occurrence of this group is required.

M	Data Set Data Elements
---	------------------------

M	CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE (COVER TUBERCULOSIS BCG)
M	ELIGIBLE POPULATION TOTAL (COVER TUBERCULOSIS BCG)
M	ELIGIBLE POPULATION IMMUNISED PERCENTAGE (COVER TUBERCULOSIS BCG)

COVER OF VACCINATION EVALUATED RAPIDLY (COVER) DATA SET OVERVIEW

Change to Supporting Information: Changed Description

Introduction

The [Cover of Vaccination Evaluated Rapidly \(COVER\) Data Set](#) is used to evaluate the routine childhood [Immunisation Programme](#) in England for children up to 5 years of age. The aim is to collect and report vaccine uptake data for all children at three months (Tuberculosis (BCG) only), one, two and five years of age on a quarterly and annual basis.

The [Cover of Vaccination Evaluated Rapidly \(COVER\) Data Set](#) is also used to evaluate the neonatal hepatitis B [Immunisation Programme](#) in England for babies born to hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) positive mothers.

The information is used:

- to reliably measure vaccine coverage
- to evaluate the success of a vaccination programme
- to identify susceptible populations for further interventions
- and to inform future vaccine policy decisions.

The [UK Health Security Agency](#) is mandated to report on vaccine uptake figures for children aged three months (Tuberculosis (BCG) only), one, two and five years for the [Local Authority](#) (upper tier) registered population for the [Public Health Outcomes Framework \(PHOF\) indicator Population vaccination coverage](#).

~~NHS England is mandated to produce the annual [Cover of Vaccination Evaluated Rapidly \(COVER\)](#) statistics. [Cover of Vaccination Evaluated Rapidly \(COVER\)](#) statistics enable the monitoring of the contribution of the routine childhood [Immunisation Programme](#) towards protecting and improving the nation's health and are used to address inequalities.~~ The [UK Health Security Agency](#) is mandated to produce the annual [Cover of Vaccination Evaluated Rapidly \(COVER\)](#) statistics. [Cover of Vaccination Evaluated Rapidly \(COVER\)](#) statistics enable the monitoring of the contribution of the routine childhood [Immunisation Programme](#) towards protecting and improving the nation's health and are used to address inequalities.

The [UK Health Security Agency](#) and the [Department of Health and Social Care](#) also have commitments to report vaccine coverage figures to international organisations such as the [World Health Organisation](#), and the [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control](#).

Submission

Immunisation records are held in Child Health Information Systems (CHIS). Quarterly and annual returns are transmitted by Child Health Record Departments (who operate local Child Health Information Systems (CHIS)) or other local [Health Care Providers](#) to the [NHS England Strategic Data Collection Service \(SDCS\)](#).

Further Guidance

For further guidance see the [UK Health Security Agency](#) part of the gov.uk website at [Vaccine uptake guidance and the latest coverage data](#).

Mandation

The Mandation column indicates the recommendation for the inclusion of data.

- M = Mandatory: this data element is mandatory and the technical process (e.g. submission of the data set, production of output etc) cannot be completed without this data element being present

CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION STATUS

Change to Class: Changed Attributes

Attributes of this Class are:

CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE

~~CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE COMBINED~~

CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE COMBINED FOR COVER

CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE FOR COVER

CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE COMBINED FOR COVER_ renamed from CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE COMBINED

Change to Attribute: Changed Description, Name, Properties

~~The type of combined childhood immunisation given to a child on the IMMUNISATION DATE.~~ The type of combined childhood immunisation given to a child on the IMMUNISATION DATE for the Cover of Vaccination Evaluated Rapidly (COVER) Data Set.

Notes:

- ~~National Code 320 'Hib/MenC - Haemophilus influenzae type b and Meningococcal group C' is the same as National Code 080 in CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE.~~
- ~~National Code 330 is the same as National Code 060 'MMR - Measles, Mumps and Rubella' in CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE.~~

National Codes:

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 300 | DTaP/IPV/Hib/HepB - Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio, Haemophilus influenzae type b and Hepatitis B |
| 310 | DTaP/IPV - Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis and Polio |
| 320 | Hib/MenC - Haemophilus influenzae type b and Meningococcal group C |
| 330 | MMR - Measles, Mumps and Rubella |
| 331 | MMRV - Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Varicella |

CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE COMBINED FOR COVER_ renamed from CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE COMBINED

Change to Attribute: Changed Description, Name, Properties

- Changed Description

- Changed Name from Data_Dictionary.Attributes.C.Ce.CHILDHOOD_IMMUNISATION_TYPE_COMBINED to Data_Dictionary.Attributes.C.Ce.CHILDHOOD_IMMUNISATION_TYPE_COMBINED_FOR_COVER
- Changes to Properties

Name	Old Value	New Value
aliasPlural	CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPES COMBINED	CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPES COMBINED FOR COVER
aliasFormerly		CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE COMBINED

CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE FOR COVER

Change to Attribute: Changed Description

The type of childhood immunisation given to a child on the [IMMUNISATION DATE](#) for the [Cover of Vaccination Evaluated Rapidly \(COVER\) Data Set](#).

National Codes:

- 011 D3 - Diphtheria
- 012 D4 - Diphtheria booster
- 013 D5 - Diphtheria booster
- 021 aP3 - Pertussis
- 022 aP4 - Pertussis booster
- 023 aP5 - Pertussis booster
- 031 T3 - Tetanus
- 032 T4 - Tetanus booster
- 033 T5 - Tetanus booster
- 041 Po3 - Polio
- 042 Po4 - Polio booster
- 043 Po5 - Polio booster
- 051 Hib3 - Haemophilus influenzae type b
- 052 Hib4 - Haemophilus influenzae type b
- 061 MMR1 - Measles, Mumps, Rubella 1
- 062 MMR2 - Measles, Mumps, Rubella 2
- 080 Haemophilus influenzae type b and Meningococcal C (booster) (Hib/MenC (booster))
- 091 PCV2 - Pneumococcal (Retired 01 July 2022)
- 092 PCV (booster) - Pneumococcal (booster)
- 093 PCV1 - Pneumococcal
- 120 Rotavirus
- 131 Hepatitis B (Hep B3) - Routine
- 132 ~~Hepatitis B (Hep B) - Selective (Retired 01 July 2022)~~
- 140 ~~Tuberculosis (BCG) (Retired 01 July 2022)~~
- 132 Hepatitis B (Hep B) - Selective
- 133 Hepatitis B (Hep B4) - Routine
- 140 Tuberculosis (BCG)
- 151 MenB2 - Meningococcal serogroup B
- 152 MenB (booster) - Meningococcal serogroup B (booster)
- 181 Varicella 1

CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE (COVER HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIGEN POSITIVE MOTHER)

Change to Data Element: Changed Description, linked Attribute

Format/Length:	an3
National Codes:	
Default Codes:	

Notes:

~~CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE (COVER HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIGEN POSITIVE MOTHER) is the same as attribute CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE for the Cover of Vaccination Evaluated Rapidly (COVER) Data Set.~~ CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE (COVER HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIGEN POSITIVE MOTHER) is the same as attribute CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE FOR COVER.

CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE (COVER HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIGEN POSITIVE MOTHER) is the type of childhood immunisation given to a child born to a Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAG) positive mother on the IMMUNISATION DATE.

Permitted National Codes:

- 131 Hepatitis B (Hep B3) - Routine
- 132 Hepatitis B (Hep B) - Selective
- 133 Hepatitis B (Hep B4) - Routine

CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE (COVER HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIGEN POSITIVE MOTHER)

Change to Data Element: Changed Description, linked Attribute

CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE (COVER HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIGEN POSITIVE MOTHER)

Attribute:

CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE

CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE FOR COVER

CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE (COVER TUBERCULOSIS BCG)

Change to Data Element: Changed Description, linked Attribute

Format/Length:	an3
National Codes:	
Default Codes:	

Notes:

~~CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE (COVER TUBERCULOSIS BCG) is the same as attribute CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE for the Cover of Vaccination Evaluated Rapidly (COVER) Data Set~~

where the [CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE](#) is '[Tuberculosis \(BCG\)](#)'. [CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE \(COVER TUBERCULOSIS BCG\)](#) is the same as attribute [CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE FOR COVER](#).

[CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE \(COVER TUBERCULOSIS BCG\)](#) is the type of childhood immunisation given to a child born, where the [CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE FOR COVER](#) is '[Tuberculosis \(BCG\)](#)'

Permitted National Codes:

140 Tuberculosis (BCG)

CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE (COVER TUBERCULOSIS BCG)

Change to Data Element: Changed Description, linked Attribute

CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE (COVER TUBERCULOSIS BCG)

Attribute:

CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE
CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE FOR COVER

CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE COMBINED (COVER)

Change to Data Element: Changed Description

Format/Length:	an3
National Codes:	See CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE COMBINED
National Codes:	See CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE COMBINED FOR COVER
Default Codes:	

Notes:

~~[CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE COMBINED \(COVER\)](#) is the same as attribute [CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE COMBINED](#) for the [Cover of Vaccination Evaluated Rapidly \(COVER\) Data Set](#).~~

For specific National Code usage, see ~~[CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE COMBINED](#)~~.

[CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE COMBINED \(COVER\)](#) is the same as attribute [CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE COMBINED FOR COVER](#).

CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE COMBINED (COVER HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIGEN POSITIVE MOTHER)

Change to Data Element: Changed Description

Format/Length:	an3
National Codes:	
Default Codes:	

Notes:

~~[CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE COMBINED \(COVER HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIGEN POSITIVE MOTHER\)](#) is the same as attribute [CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE COMBINED](#) for the~~

~~Cover of Vaccination Evaluated Rapidly (COVER) Data Set.~~ **CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE COMBINED (COVER HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIGEN POSITIVE MOTHER)** is the same as attribute **CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE COMBINED FOR COVER**.

CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE COMBINED (COVER HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIGEN POSITIVE MOTHER) is the type of combined childhood immunisation given to a child born to a Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAG) positive mother on the **IMMUNISATION DATE**.

Permitted National Code:

300 DTaP/IPV/Hib/HepB - Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio, Haemophilus influenzae type b and Hepatitis B

ELIGIBLE POPULATION TOTAL (COVER)

Change to Data Element: Changed Description

Format/Length:	max n5
National Codes:	
Default Codes:	

Notes:

ELIGIBLE POPULATION TOTAL (COVER) is the same as attribute **ELIGIBLE POPULATION TOTAL**.

~~**ELIGIBLE POPULATION TOTAL (COVER)** is the total number of **PERSONS** eligible to receive the immunisation of **CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE** and/or **CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE COMBINED** if offered within a **REPORTING PERIOD**.~~

ELIGIBLE POPULATION TOTAL (COVER) is the total number of **PERSONS** eligible to receive the immunisation of **CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE FOR COVER** and/or **CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION TYPE COMBINED FOR COVER** if offered within a **REPORTING PERIOD**.

For enquiries about this Change Request, please email support.digitalservices@nhs.net