



UK Health  
Security  
Agency

# Cover of Vaccination Evaluated Rapidly (COVER)

## Change Specification v2.3

DAPB0089 Amd 80/2021

# Data Alliance Partnership Board

The Data Alliance Partnership Board (DAPB), which holds delegated authority from the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, has approved a new information standard for publication under [section 250 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012](#).

Assurance that this information standard meets the requirements of the Act and is appropriate for the use specified in the specification document has been provided by the Data Standards Assurance Service (DSAS) and approved by the Data Alliance Partnership Board (DAPB).

This information standard comprises the following documents:

- Requirements Specification
- Implementation Guidance
- Change Specification

An Information Standards Notice (DAPB0089 Amd 80/2021) has been issued as a notification of use and implementation timescales. Please read this alongside the documents for the standard.

The controlled versions of these documents can be found on the [NHS Digital website](#). Any copies held outside of that area, in whatever format (for example, paper, email attachment), are considered to have passed out of control and should be checked for currency and validity.

Date of publication: 6 January 2022

## Glossary of terms

Term	Acronym	Definition
Bacillus Calmette–Guérin vaccine	BCG	Bacillus Calmette–Guérin vaccine against tuberculosis
Child Health Information Systems Service	CHISS	This service comprises of 3 components. The CHISSs, the CHRD and the PCHR (Personal Child Health Record)
Child Health Information Systems	CHISSs	The systems, while they vary, generally provide some sort of cohort analysis function for children services as well as a call and recall function
Child Health Record Department	CHRD	The people who manage and maintain the details on the child health record system
Clinical Commissioning Group	CCG	NHS organisations set up by the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to organise the delivery of NHS Services in England
Cover of Vaccination Evaluated Rapidly	COVER	UK quarterly data and commentary on coverage achieved by the UK childhood immunisation programme.
Data Alliance Partnership Board	DAPB	The DAPB has responsibility for approving information standards, data collections and extractions (ISCEs) to be used in health and adult social care.
European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control	ECDC	An independent agency of the European Union (EU) aiming to strengthen Europe’s defences against infectious disease
Hepatitis B virus	HBV	Hepatitis B virus, abbreviated HBV, is a species of the genus Orthohepadnavirus, which is likewise a part of the Hepadnaviridae family of viruses. This virus causes the disease Hepatitis B.
Hepatitis B vaccine	HepB	Hepatitis B vaccine against hepatitis B virus infection; can be either monovalent hepatitis B vaccine or part of the combined DTaP/IPV/Hib/HepB vaccine
Information Standards Notice	ISN	A notice of an Information Standard approved by the Data Alliance Partnership Board (DAPB). When a health and social care organisation in England receives an ISN, they ensure that they and their contractors comply with the standard in a reasonable time (such time defined within the ISN).

<b>Term</b>	<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Integrated Care Boards	ICB	The proposed Health and Care Bill will allow for the establishment of Integrated Care Boards and Integrated Care Partnerships across England. This will be done at the same time as abolishing Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). The ICB will take on the NHS commissioning functions of CCGs as well as some of NHS England's commissioning functions.
NHS Digital	NHS D	The Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) was set up by the Department of Health in April 2013 and is an executive non-departmental public body. Since August 2016, it has been operating as NHS Digital.
Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine	PCV	A conjugate vaccine offered in the routine childhood immunisation programme that protects against 13 strains of the pneumococcal bacterium.
Public Health Outcomes Framework	PHOF Team	Public Health Outcomes Framework Team responsible for delivery of the PHOF which sets out a vision for public health, with desired outcomes and the indicators that will help us to understand how well public health is being improved and protected.
Strategic Data Collection Service	SDCS	The Strategic Data Collection Service (SDCS) is an NHS Digital secure data collection system used by health and social care organisations to submit data.
United Kingdom Health Security Agency	UKHSA	The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) takes on the health protection responsibilities of Public Health England (PHE) and incorporates NHS Test and Trace and the Joint Biosecurity Centre (JBC). UKHSA is an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care. It is responsible for planning, preventing and responding to external health threats, and providing intellectual, scientific and operational leadership at national and local level.

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# 1. Overview

## 1.2 Summary

<b>Standard details</b>	
DAPB unique identifier	DAPB0089 Amd 80/2021
Name	Cover of Vaccination Evaluated Rapidly (COVER) Return
Approval date	21 December 2021
Publication date	6 January 2022
<b>Standard definition</b>	
Description	<p>This standard defines how information is extracted from Child Health Information Systems (CHISs) and submitted to NHS Digital via the NHS Digital Strategic Data Collection Service (SDCS) portal using a data collection template in order to calculate vaccine coverage at Local Authority (LA) and General Practice (GP) level as part of the COVER (Cover of Vaccination Evaluated Rapidly) programme. COVER measures vaccine coverage for each vaccine of the routine childhood immunisation programme in England for children aged 3 months (BCG only), one, 2 and 5 years of age.</p> <p>Vaccine coverage data are extracted quarterly and annually from local CHISs, which are commissioned by NHS England and NHS Improvement. LA coverage data are published by United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) quarterly as official statistics and by NHS Digital and UKHSA jointly as national statistics annually. Quarterly and annual GP level data will be published by UKHSA and will primarily be intended for local performance management.</p>
<b>About this change</b>	
Description	This change paper outlines amendments made since the last release of the standard on 6 February 2020.

	<p>This version of the COVER standard has been revised to reflect the change to BCG vaccination that will now occur at 28 days rather than at birth and eligibility and vaccination for BCG will be recorded for all children on the CHIS record.</p> <p>Redundant items relating to PCV2 and HepB have also been withdrawn</p>
Implementation completion date	6 July 2022

## 1.2 Supporting products

Reference	Title
1	<a href="#">DAPB0089 COVER – Specification</a>
2	<a href="#">DAPB0089 COVER – Change Specification (this document)</a>
3	<a href="#">DAPB0089 COVER – NHS Data Model and Dictionary Change Request</a>
4	<a href="#">DAPB0089 COVER – Implementation Guidance</a>
5	<a href="#">DAPB0089 COVER - User Guide</a>
6	<a href="#">CHIS Output and Information Requirements</a>

## 1.3 Related Standards

Reference	Title
ISB 1523	<a href="#">Anonymisation Standard for Publishing Health and Social Care Data</a>
DAPB1069	<a href="#">Community Services Data Set (CSDS)</a>

## 2. Change specification

### 2.1 Change Items

From 1 September 2020 onwards, BCG vaccination will occur at 28 days rather than at birth and eligibility and vaccination for BCG will be recorded for all children on the CHIS record. Data providers must now provide the number of BCG vaccinations by 3 months of age and the number of BCG-eligible babies at both 3 and 12 months of age.

Several items in the Information Standard were previously required because of a transfer from one vaccination regime to another. These are the move from 2 doses of Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) by 12 months of age to a one dose schedule and changes in the number of doses of Hepatitis B (HepB) vaccine for at risk babies by 12 and 24 months of age. These programmes have now fully transitioned to their new regimes and the redundant items are removed.

### 3. Summary of COVER return data items that have changed

There is:

- the addition of one new data item for the number of BCG vaccinations at 3 months of age
- the addition of one new data item for the number of BCG-eligible babies at 3 months of age
- the addition of one new data item for the number of BCG-eligible babies at 12 months of age
- the re-location of one existing data item for the number of BCG vaccinations at 12 months of age
- the removal of one data item of PCV2 at 12 months of age
- the removal of one data item of Hepatitis B 12 months numerator for babies born <1 August 2017
- the removal of one data item of Hepatitis B 24 months numerator for babies born <1 August 2017

## 4. Changes to request parameters for COVER

Data providers must now provide the number of BCG vaccinations by 3 months of age and the number of BCG-eligible babies at both 3 and 12 months of age.

The 2 doses of Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV2) by 12 months of age and the third and fourth doses of Hepatitis B (HepB) vaccine for at risk babies by 12 and 24 months of age are no longer required.

Request 1: 12 MONTH COHORT

PNEUMOCOCCAL (PCV2) has been deleted.

BCG (BCG) has been moved to Request 7 Line 14.

Request 4: Neonatal Hepatitis B 12 MONTH COHORT

Total number included in line 7 and receiving a third dose of monovalent HepB vaccine (HepB(selective)) before their 1st birthday for babies born <1st August 2017 has been deleted.

Request 5: Neonatal Hepatitis B 24 MONTH COHORT

Total number included in line 10 and receiving a fourth dose of monovalent HepB vaccine (HepB(selective)) before their second birthday for babies born <1st August 2017 has been deleted.

Request 6: Selective BCG 3 MONTH COHORT

Line 11

Total number of BCG eligible children for whom the LA/GP is responsible and reaching 3 months of age during the above evaluation quarter has been added.

Line 12

Total number included in line 11 and receiving a dose of BCG before 3 months of age has been added.

Request 7: Selective BCG 12 MONTH COHORT

Line 13

Total number of BCG eligible children for whom the LA/GP is responsible and reaching their first birthday during the above evaluation quarter has been added.

Line 14

Total number included in line 13 and receiving a dose of BCG before their first birthday relocated from Request 1 Line 2.

# About the UK Health Security Agency

UKHSA is responsible for protecting every member of every community from the impact of infectious diseases, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents and other health threats. We provide intellectual, scientific and operational leadership at national and local level, as well as on the global stage, to make the nation health secure.

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