TB Pathway 4: Providing BCG in Bristol

- BCG is recommended for UK-born children aged 0 - 5 if they:
  - Have one or more parent or grandparent born in a high incidence country for TB (over 40 cases per 100,000 (incidence rates are found at www.hpa.org.uk, enter search term “WHO TB country data”). OR
  - Have a family history of treated TB within the past 5 years.
- Please see notes 1 and 2 (overleaf) regarding important exclusions to the above.
- For children born outside the UK see note 3 overleaf.
- If BCG is requested for a child aged 0-16 who does not meet the above criteria, they should be referred to Professor Emond’s Immunisation Clinic at Bristol Children’s Hospital.
- For BCG in adults, please see note 4 overleaf.

Woman presents to midwife for ante-natal care.

- Midwife assesses need for BCG using criteria above.
- Records need for post-natal BCG on Maternity IT programmes

Baby is born in Maternity Unit

- Consent obtained; BCG given before transfer home.
- Document thoroughly, including in baby’s Child Health Record (Red Book).

Baby is born in Community.

- BCG not given before transfer home.
- Community midwife ensures baby referred baby to Community BCG Clinic *

Consent obtained; BCG given before transfer home.

No record of immunisation / scar.

Yes, has evidence of BCG immunisation.

Record findings in medical record and Child Health Record (Red Book). No further action required.

UK-born child aged 0 – 5 years presents to primary care.

Primary care staff (GP, Practice Nurse, H.V or School Nurse) opportunistically assess need for BCG (see above)

Evidence is sought for prior BCG:
- Is there a record of immunisation? (Bristol’s Child Health Department on 9002433 may have a record of this)
- OR
- Is there a reported history of immunisation AND a characteristic scar (left deltoid)?

Document thoroughly, including in baby’s Child Health Record (Red Book).

- Baby / child attends Community BCG Clinic *
  (staff use BCG Clinic pathways)
  - Consent obtained
  - Given BCG. No need for prior mantoux (unless child has lived outside UK in high-incidence country for period of over one month.
  (see note 3 over).

Need for immunisation discussed. Child referred to community BCG clinic.

Note: Risks / Benefits of BCG should be discussed with parent / guardian in an appropriate language (NICE). (See note 5 overleaf.)
*A catch-up BCG clinic is run by Treatment Room nurses at: Lawrence Hill Health Centre. Fax a referral form or telephone 0117 954 3060 for appointment

* Where a child has a child has complex medical conditions, a referral for BCG immunisation can be sent by post to Professor Emond’s Immunisation Clinic at the Outpatients’ Department, Bristol Children’s Hospital.

Notes:

1. **Babies born into a household where someone has recently-diagnosed or untreated TB** should not be routinely vaccinated with BCG, but urgent advice should be sought from the following paediatrician:

   Dr Jolanta Bernatoniene  
   Consultant in Paediatric Infectious Diseases  
   Bristol Children’s Hospital  
   Tel: 3420174  
   Fax: 3420221

2. **Babies and young children at risk of being HIV positive** must not receive routine BCG, but be referred to the paediatric infectious diseases team, Dr Jolanta Bernatoniene (address above) or Professor Adam Finn, for advice / review.

3. **Child aged 0-5 who meets criteria for needing BCG, but has been resident in a country with a high incidence of TB for more than one month**, should be mantoux-tested first, which is organised by the Community BCG Clinics

4. **Adults seeking BCG** should be assessed for specific risk factors for TB. See information in Green Book on indications for BCG. The web address is:


   Adults with risk factors should be referred to the Whitefriars Centre (address below). This service provides a free occupational health service to NHS employees who risk exposure to TB through their work, and a private vaccination clinic for others who are at risk of exposure through travel etcetera.

   Adults without risk factors should not be offered BCG vaccination, but should be advised of the current policy and given written information.

   Avon Partnership Occupational Health,  
   Whitefriars Centre,  
   Lewins Mead,  
   Bristol,  
   BS1 2NT,  
   Tel: 0117 342 3400

5. **Information for families on TB, BCG vaccine and babies** can be downloaded in various languages from the following web address: