

## VARICELLA Supporting information

This guideline has been prepared with reference to the following:

Public Health England. Chicken Box, Chapter 6 from Immunoglobulin Handbook. 2020.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/337630/Immunoglobulin\\_handbook\\_General\\_Information\\_July\\_2014.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/337630/Immunoglobulin_handbook_General_Information_July_2014.pdf)

Public Health England. Varicella zoster immunoglobulin: Guidance on the use and ordering of varicella zoster immunoglobulin (VZIG). 2019. PHE. London

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/varicella-zoster-immunoglobulin>

Public Health England. Guidance on viral rash in pregnancy. 2019. PHE. London

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/viral-rash-in-pregnancy>

Public Health England. Varicella, from Immunisation against infectious disease - 'The Green Book'. 2019. PHE. London

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/varicella-the-green-book-chapter-34>

Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Chickenpox in pregnancy. Guideline No. 13. 2015. London. RCOG

<https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/guidelines-research-services/guidelines/gtg13/>

HPA Rash Guidance Working Group. Guidance on Viral Rash in Pregnancy: Investigation, Diagnosis and Management of Viral Rash Illness, or Exposure to Viral Rash Illness, in Pregnancy. 2011. Health Protection Agency

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/322688/Viral\\_rash\\_in\\_pregnancy\\_guidance.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/322688/Viral_rash_in_pregnancy_guidance.pdf)

### **Babies whose mothers develop chickenpox from < 6 days pre-delivery up to 14 days after delivery should be given zoster immune globulin (VZIG)?**

The RCOG guidelines recommend that if birth occurs within the 7-day period following the onset of the maternal rash, or if the mother develops the chickenpox rash within the 7-day period after birth, the neonate should be given VZIG. The infant should be monitored for signs of infection until 28 days after the onset of maternal infection. Australian guidelines (Heuchan, 2001) differ in that VZIG is recommended from 7 days before or up to 28 days after delivery. These Australian recommendations no longer agree with UK Department of Health advice (DoH, 2013) which states that "VZIG is not usually required for infants born more than seven days after the onset of maternal chicken pox or whose mothers develop Herpes zoster (shingles) before or after delivery, as these infants will have maternal antibody."

Infants born to mothers with onset of chickenpox 4 days before to 2 days after delivery are at increased risk of severe or fatal varicella, despite the use of VZIG (Reynolds, 1999).

Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Chickenpox in pregnancy. Guideline No. 13. 2015. London. RCOG

<https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/guidelines-research-services/guidelines/gtg13/>

Department of Health.. Immunisation against infectious disease. London: DoH, 2013.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/varicella-the-green-book-chapter-34>

Heuchan AM, Isaacs D. The management of varicella-zoster virus exposure and infection in pregnancy and the newborn period. Australasian Subgroup in Paediatric Infectious Diseases of the Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases. Med J Aust 2001;174:288-92

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Reynolds L, Struik S, Nadel S. Neonatal varicella: varicella zoster immunoglobulin (VZIG) does not prevent disease. Arch Dis Child Fetal Neonatal Ed 1999;81:F69-F70

**Evidence Level: V**

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