



## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS PATHOGENS

### Categorisation of *Neisseria meningitidis* B

#### Issue

1. The “Approved List of biological agents” categorises *Neisseria meningitidis* strains as Hazard Group 2 pathogens. From time to time ACDP, in consultation with other experts, are asked to review the list, in particular considering evidence for the addition of new agents and reviewing the evidence for the classification of agents already listed. Members are asked to consider the suitability of the current categorisation for *Neisseria meningitidis* strains, in particular, serogroup B.
2. Members are asked to consider three papers for this item:

**Paper 1:** “A proposal to further define containment/safety conditions for working with *Neisseria meningitidis* and other pathogens where there is a risk of rapid onset and potentially lethal meningitis”. This proposal was sent to the ACDP Chairman in February this year. This paper is closed as it contains patient information.

**Paper 2:** Categorisation of *Neisseria meningitidis* B – paper from the Health and Safety Executive. This paper is open.

**Paper 3:** Categorisation of *Neisseria meningitidis* B – paper from the Health Protection Agency. This paper is open.

#### Action

3. Members are asked to consider the three papers for this item, the scientific data surrounding laboratory acquired infections with *Neisseria meningitidis*, and the current legal requirements for laboratory control, and advise on appropriate containment measures. The following are intended as suggestions for members to consider as an appropriate way forward;
  - Maintain the current hazard grouping of all *Neisseria meningitidis* serotypes (hazard group 2)
  - Re-categorise all *Neisseria meningitidis* serotypes as hazard group 3 (UK)
  - Re-categorise only *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup B strains as hazard group 3
  - Maintain the current hazard grouping for all serotypes and provide additional formal advice relating to extra control measures considered necessary for safe working in laboratory environments
  - Consider recommendations for vaccination of laboratory workers

**Secretariat  
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