

OA Reablement service	OA Day Care	OA Residential Care	Domiciliary Services	DMH Day Services	DMH Supported Living	DMH Residential Services	EIA'd
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

I3 MUMPS

Introduction

Mumps is an acute viral illness transmitted by direct contact with saliva or droplets from the saliva of an infected person. Humans are the only known host of the mumps virus. Mumps is a notifiable disease, which means that a doctor who sees a patient whom they suspect has mumps is required by law to report it.

The illness

Symptoms begin with a headache and fever for a day or two before the disease is characterised by swelling of the parotid glands which may be unilateral (one side) or bilateral (both sides). However, at least 30% of cases in children have no symptoms. Complications of symptomatic mumps include swelling of the ovaries (oophoritis), swelling of the testes (orchitis), aseptic meningitis and deafness. Cases may have no salivary gland involvement but develop symptoms elsewhere (orchitis, meningitis). Despite common belief there is no firm evidence that orchitis causes sterility. Other symptoms may include pancreatitis, neuritis, arthritis, mastitis, nephritis, thyroiditis and pericarditis. Mumps was the commonest cause of viral meningitis in children prior to 1988, when vaccine was introduced.

The incubation period is 14-21 days and mumps is transmissible from several days before the parotid swelling to several days after it appears. Contagiousness is similar to that of influenza and rubella but not as infectious as chickenpox or measles. Exposed individuals should be considered infectious from 12 to 25 days after exposure.

Exclusion from work

4 days from onset of the rash

Treatment

There is no specific treatment for mumps. Treatment should be based on alleviating symptoms.

Prevention

Mumps vaccine is one of the components of MMR vaccine.

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Amendment	1							13/05/11 P&P

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Recommended immunisation schedule

MMR is given in the national immunisation programme at 12-15 months and at 4 years of age. There is no upper age limit and where required, two doses can be given separated by at least a one month interval.

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