

## **MMR – SINGLES OR COMBINED?**

Ever since Andrew Wakefield's controversial report in 1998 suggested a possible link between the combined MMR vaccine and autism, parents have been in a quandary about whether or not to give the vaccine to their children.

The NHS has not altered its combined MMR vaccination programme, as medical research has not proved a causal link, and so the NHS doesn't offer an alternative of separate measles, mumps and rubella vaccinations.

As a result many parents have decided not to vaccinate their children at all, leaving them vulnerable to these serious illnesses. However if a child isn't immunised they will always be at risk from catching the diseases, and will rely on other parents immunising their children to avoid becoming infected. If more parents choose not to immunise then there will be increasing numbers of susceptible children and outbreaks will occur.

DOCTORnow, a private GP Surgery in Beaconsfield, strongly believes that all children should be vaccinated against measles, mumps and rubella. They also believe there is no causal link between the combined MMR and autism. However, they respect the concerns and wishes of parents, and believe in giving choice. They have therefore decided to offer the single measles, mumps and rubella vaccines.

These are given at the same strengths as those in the combined vaccine, but are given at 4 week intervals. As for the combined MMR vaccination, the first dose can be given as soon as the child is 13 months old, and a second booster vaccination is recommended pre-school to ensure complete immunity. It is believed that it takes around 2 weeks after the vaccination is given to develop immunity against the disease.

Recognising the possible trauma for both parents and children to come into a medical environment for vaccinations, DOCTORnow also offer a mobile nurse service, so the nurse can come to your home to give your child their vaccination, making for a far more relaxed experience.

If you would like more information please call DOCTORnow on 0870 850 8565. If you quote Raring 2 Go we will offer you 10% off the cost of all 3 vaccinations.