October 28, 2005

ATTN: Medical Health Officers and Branch Offices
     Public Health Nursing Administrators and Assistant Administrators
     Holders of Communicable Disease Control Manuals

Re: Revisions to Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2 – Immunization Program

Please note the following changes to the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2 – Immunization Program:

(1) Section I – Introduction
Pages 7 – 9 and 9a (new page), “History of Immunization Development in BC:"
• Addition of biological product names where necessary for clarity
• Addition of new vaccine program start dates, by month
• Addition of vaccine program changes for 2004 and 2005

(2) Section II – Immunization Schedules
Page 2, Basic Immunization:
• Footnote for ♦ has been restored
Page 8, “Minimum Intervals Between Vaccine Doses:"
• The schedule for meningococcal C conjugate vaccine is specific to Neis Vac-C

Page 9, “Vaccines Recommended for High Risk Clients:"
• Islet cell transplant recipients have been added to the list of high risk clients

(3) Section III – Contraindications and Precautions to Immunization
Page 8, 8.3: Prematurity
• The response to a birth dose of hepatitis B vaccine in a preterm infant with a birth weight of < 2000 grams may be diminished. These infants will require a 4 dose hepatitis B vaccine series.

Administrative Circular # 2005:14
Page 9, 8.6: Immunization and Breastfeeding
• Varicella vaccine can be given to a breastfeeding woman.

(4) Section VII – Biological Products
Pages 5, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 43a:
• Islet cell transplant recipients have been added to the list of persons eligible for these vaccines (Act-HIB®️, Meningococcal C Conjugate, Meningococcal Polysaccharide, Pneumococcal Conjugate, and Pneumococcal Polysaccharide).

Page 11, Hepatitis B immune Globulin:
• Wording change for clarity under Indications (number 3).

Page 14, Hepatitis B Vaccine Pre-exposure Indications:
• Addition of HIV positive individuals to this list

Page 31, Influenza Vaccine Indications:
• New group eligible for publicly-funded influenza vaccine: people working with poultry and/or swine (due to potential animal infection with avian or swine influenza).

Page 32a, Vaxigrip®️:
• Added dosing of Vaxigrip for those 3 - 8 years and ≥ 9 years of age.
• New footnote®️. While Vaxigrip®️ is to be routinely used for children 6 – 23 months, high risk pregnant and lactating women, and women in their 3rd trimester expected to deliver during the influenza season, Vaxigrip®️ may be administered to other eligible groups in order to use up remaining doses in a vial post-puncture.

Pages 35, 37, and 38:
• Clarified wording related to scheduling of infant doses

Page 50a and 50d (RabAvert®️):
• More detailed instructions for reconstitution of the vaccine

Page 50b (RabAvert®️):
• Contraindications moved to this page from page 50a

Please remove and destroy the following pages from Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2 – Immunization Program:
Section I – Introduction
Pages 7 - 9  Dated August 2004
Section II – Immunization Schedules
Page 2 Dated March 2005
Pages 8 and 9 Dated June 2005

Section III – Contraindications and Precautions for Immunization
Pages 8 and 9 Dated July 2004

Section VII – Biological Products
Pages 5 and 14 Dated December 2003
Pages 31, 32a, 50b and 50d Dated August 2005
Pages 11, 35, 37, 38, and 41 Dated March 2005
Pages 39, 43, 43a, and 50a Dated June 2005

Insert the following pages in the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2 - Immunization Program:

Section I – Introduction
Pages 7, 8, 9 and 9a Dated October 2005

Section II – Immunization Schedules
Pages 2, 8 and 9 Dated October 2005

Section III – Contraindications and Precautions to Immunization
Pages 8 and 9 Dated October 2005

Section VII – Biological Products
Pages 5, 11, 14, 31, 32a, 35, 37, 38, 39, 41, 43, 43a, 50a, 50b and 50d Dated October 2005

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Karen Pielak, Nurse Epidemiologist, or Cheryl McIntyre, Associate Nurse Epidemiologist, at telephone (604)660-6061, fax (604)660-0197 or by email at karen.pielak@bccdc.ca or cheryl.mcintyre@bccdc.ca

Sincerely,

David Patrick
Director
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BC Centre for Disease Control

DMP/kka

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