March 21, 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 II – Immunization Program

Please note the following revisions:

(1) Section II – Immunization Schedules:

Pages 2 to 6:
• New vaccine programs added to these schedules (i.e. meningococcal C
  conjugate and varicella).
• Footnote added that the 4th dose of Pentacel® should not be given before 15
  months of age, in order to protect against Hib.

Page 3:
• Schedule for Completion of Conjugate Pneumococcal Vaccination when a
  Primary Series has been Interrupted: moved from Section VII to Section II.

Page 8:
• Footnotes added:
  • When MMR is given before 12 months of age, two MMR doses are needed
    after 12 months of age.
  • The 4th dose of Hib should be given no earlier than 15 months of age.

Page 9:
• Varicella vaccine indicated for children and adults with sickle cell disease.
• Vaccines indicated for adult HIV+ individuals added to table.
• New footnote: Individuals post-HSCT receive all indicated vaccines, regardless
  of immunization history prior to HSCT

Administrative Circular # 2005:04
(1) Section II – Immunization Schedules (cont’d):

Page 19:
• Information about the risk of arthritis or arthralgias following rubella disease or rubella immunization has been updated and is consistent with the Canadian Immunization Guide.

(2) Section III – Contraindications and Routine Precautions:

Subsection 6.6 “Concurrent Administration of Live Vaccines” (page 7):
• Added information: “If two live parenteral vaccines are not given on the same day and are given < one month apart, the vaccine that was given second should be repeated 28 days after it was given.

(3) Section IV – Vaccine Administration:

Subsection 7.0 “Injection sites, Needle Size and Positioning” Page 4:
• Deleted second bullet, given the need to administer more than one biological at each injection site.
• Moved third bullet to subsection 9.0 “Considerations for the Administration and Scheduling of Multiple Injections.”

Subsection 9.0 “Considerations for the Administration and Scheduling of Multiple Injections” Page 14:
• Bullet added as noted above.
• Second bullet deleted as the information was redundant.

(4) Section VII – Biological Products:

Page 2: Footnote added that the 4th dose of Pentacel® should not be given before 15 months of age, in order to protect against Hib.

Page 11: New footnote: “See Immune Globulin Preparations (HBIG, ISG, VZIG, HRIG) for maximum volume to be administered per site according to age.”

Page 13: In 5th row under column titled “Vaccination History of Exposed Person,” added “or anti-HBs is < 10 IU/L when tested more than 6 months post-vaccination” to category of “Complete Hep B vaccination (2 or 3 doses series) and anti-HBs status unknown.”

Page 26: New footnote: “See Immune Globulin Preparations (HBIG, ISG, VZIG, HRIG) for maximum volume to be administered per site according to age.”
(4) Section VII – Biological Products (cont’d):

Page 34: Moved “recent administration of an immune globulin preparation or blood product” into the contraindications section.

Pages 35 and 36: Meningococcal C Conjugate Vaccine (Menjugate™):
- Addition of eligibility of grade 12 students
- Revision of three dose scheduling for infants starting at 2 months of age: the third dose must be given when the infant is at least 5 months of age. A review of the literature indicated concern about the long-term effectiveness of meningococcal C conjugate vaccines when the last dose is administered to infants at < 5 months of age. In this regard, a new footnote has been added: “If last dose is inadvertently received before the infant is 5 months of age, give an additional dose at 12 months of age.”

Pages 37 and 38: Meningococcal C Conjugate Vaccine (Neis Vac-C):
- Addition of the new eligible groups (infants born on or after April 1, 2005 and grade 12 students).
- New footnote, for reason noted above: “If last dose is inadvertently received before the infant is 5 months of age, give an additional dose at 12 months of age.

Pages 41, 42, 43 and 43a: Footnotes on each page indicate the 8 week spacing between the last dose of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV 7) and a dose of a pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine, for children ≥ 2 years of age, at high risk from pneumococcal disease.

Page 41a: moved to Section II: Immunization Schedules

Pages 45, 55, and 62: New footnote: “See Immune Globulin Preparations (HBIG, ISG, VZIG, HRIG) for maximum volume to be administered per site according to age.”

Pages 63 and 65: Addition of new eligible groups:
- As a one-time catch-up, during 2005, all susceptible children from 18 to 48 months of age.
- Susceptible women of childbearing age (15 to 45 years of age).
Pages 64 and 66: New footnote under “Precautions:” Do TB skin testing on the same day as varicella immunization or delay TB skin testing for ≥ 6 weeks.”

Page 67 Yellow Fever Vaccine:
Contraindications:
• Addition of latex into vaccine component list.
• Revision of age of contraindication from under 4 months of age to under 9 months of age. This is due to the risk of neurotropic disease in this age group.
• Addition of immunocompromised and list of immunosuppressed conditions as further contraindications. This is due to the risk of neurotropic disease in these groups.

Precautions:
• Addition of new information concerning the risk of viscerotropic disease in those ≥ 65 years of age.
• New footnote under “Precautions:” Do TB skin testing on the same day as Yellow Fever immunization or delay TB skin testing for ≥ 6 weeks.”

Section X – Appendices:

This section has been re-formatted and re-ordered and two new subsections added:
Subsection 1.0 Referral Form for Varicella Immunization of Immunocompromised Clients
Subsection 2.0 Adverse Events Following Immunization - Temporal Criteria

Please remove and destroy the following from the Communicable Disease Manual: Chapter II – Immunization Program:

Section II – Immunization Schedules:
Pages 2 and 4 Dated December 2004
Page 5 Dated September 2004
Pages 3, 6, 8, 9 and 19 Dated July 2004

Section III – Contraindications and Routine Precautions:
Page 7 Dated July 2004

Section IV – Vaccine Administration:
Page 4 Dated November 2002
Page 14 Dated June 2003
Section VII – Biological Products:

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Section X: all pages  Dated June 2004

Insert the following replacement pages:  Dated March 2005

Section II:  Pages 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 19

Section III:  Page 7

Section IV:  Pages 4 and 14

Section VII:  Table of Contents
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Yours sincerely,

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