



BC Centre for Disease Control
AN AGENCY OF THE PROVINCIAL HEALTH SERVICES AUTHORITY

October 2, 2006

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

Re: Revisions to Guidelines for the Management of Anaphylaxis

Please note the following revisions to the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2: Immunization Section V: Anaphylaxis:

(1) New Subsections:

- 1.2 Definitions
- 1.3 Presentation
- 1.4 Assessment
- 1.5 Action of Epinephrine:
 - Background information to the revised guidelines: Intramuscular epinephrine injections into the thigh (vastus lateralis) have been reported to provide more rapid absorption and higher plasma epinephrine levels in both children and adults than intramuscular or subcutaneous injections administered into the arm.
 - Subcutaneous administration of epinephrine is no longer recommended - higher and more rapid concentrations of epinephrine are achieved after IM administration.

(2) Page 4, Section 3.0 Supervision of Vaccinee Post-Immunization:

- TB skin test recipients should also be advised to remain under supervision for at least 15 minutes after product administration.

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(3) Page 6, Section 5.0 Administration of Epinephrine:

- Recommendation is to give epinephrine intramuscularly (IM) **preferentially** into an anterolateral thigh site (vastus lateralis) – to all ages. If administration into a thigh site is problematic, epinephrine may be administered IM into the deltoid muscle of children **≥ 12 months of age** and to adults.
- Repeat epinephrine at **5-minute** intervals as needed to a maximum of 3 doses (previously had recommended at 10 to 15 minute intervals).

(4) Page 8, Section 10.0 Maintenance of Epinephrine Vials and Other Emergency Supplies:

- Suggested content for epinephrine kits

(5) Page 10, Worksheet for Emergency Treatment of Anaphylaxis:

- Reorganized the flow of the worksheet to reflect the sequencing of tasks (i.e. assessing pulse and respirations before administering dose(s) of epinephrine and diphenhydramine hydrochloride).

Please remove and destroy the following pages from the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2 – Immunization Program, Section V Anaphylaxis:

Table of Contents
 Pages 1, 2, 3 & 9
 Pages 4, 7, 8
 Pages 5 and 6

Dated June 2005
 Dated June 2003
 Dated August 2004
 Dated June 2005

Insert the following replacement pages into the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2 – Immunization Program, Section V Anaphylaxis:

Table of Contents
 Pages 1 – 11

Dated October 2006

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

Sincerely,

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