



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

January 11, 2008

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

Re: Revisions to Guidelines for the Control of Botulism

Please note the following revisions to the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 1: Management of Specific Diseases – Botulism:

Page 1, Section 1.0 Introduction:

- Added:...caused by toxins “A through F”
- Added:...all share the “symmetrical descending”

Page 1, Section 2.0 Clinical description :

- Added further information under Wound botulism
- Added a description of intestinal botulism in older children and adults

Page 2, Section 2.1 Modes of transmission:

- Added further information on wound botulism and risk factors associated with IDU
- Added further information on intestinal botulism and risk factors associated with infant botulism
- Added mention of inhalational and iatrogenic botulism

Page 3, Section 2.2 Incubation periods:

- Added 3-30 days for infant botulism

Page 3, Section 3.0 Epidemiology:

- Updated the epidemiological data

Page 3, Section 4.0 Definitions:

- Modified definitions slightly to be compatible with national definitions
- Added a definition for Confirmed cases of intestinal botulism in non-infants

Page 4, Section 5.0 Case management:

- Deleted requirement to inform on-call person in Epidemiology Services.



Page 5, Section 5.2 Laboratory investigation:

- Added Medical Microbiologist phone number
- Provided more specific guidance re: specimens required for testing

Page 6, Section 5.4.1 Botulism Antitoxin:

- With the change in botulism antitoxin product available in Canada, the following changes were made:
 - Skin testing no longer required
 - Dose of monovalent E antitoxin is different
- Changed the Special Access Program (SAP) website address.

Page 7, Section 5.4.2 Botulism Immune Globulin:

- Since BabyBIG can be made available for use in treatment in Canada through the SAP, this section was changed to include steps to obtain BabyBIG.

Page 9, Section 6.1 Immunoprophylaxis:

- Changed dose of monovalent E antitoxin to be compatible with product currently available in Canada.

Page 9, Section 8.0 Reporting:

- Changed the SAP website address.

Page 10, Section 10.0 References:

- Added new references.

Please remove and destroy the guidelines for the Control of Botulism dated November 2004.

Replace with the following revised guidelines:

Botulism
Table of Contents
Pages 1 – 10

Dated January 2008



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If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Eleni Galanis, Physician Epidemiologist, at telephone (604)660-6061, fax (604)660-0197 or by email at eleni.galanis@bccdc.ca

Sincerely,

Dr. David Patrick, Director
Epidemiology Services
B C Centre for Disease Control

Administrative Circular #2008: 01

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