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

October 21, 2008

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 changes to the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter II – Immunization Program, Section IV:

****Note: Section IV has been retitled to "Administration of Biological Products."****

Page 1, Subsection 2.1 "Product Preparation:"

- Added the 7"Rights" of medication administration and importance of administering each biological product using the correct route.
- Added more detail about checking characteristics of the product to be administered.

Page 2, Subsection 2.2 "Informed Consent:"

- New subsection.

Page 2, Subsection 2.3 "Client Assessment:"

- New subsection.

Administrative Circular 2008:10

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Page 3, Section 3.0 "Considerations for the scheduling and administration multiple injections:"

- Included guideline 7 of the National Guidelines for Immunization Practices: "Administer all vaccine doses for which a recipient is eligible at the time of each visit."
- Listed more detailed recommendations, including:
  - Use of different limbs when 2 products are to be administered
  - Consideration of having 2 health care providers administer biological products simultaneously
  - Rapid injection of the biological product
  - Give products that are known to be more painful last
  - Ensure that live vaccines that are not given concurrently are separated by at least 4 weeks.

Page 4, Section 4.0 "Drawing up Multiple Doses of A Biological Product:"

- Statement that a biological product should be drawn up by the person who will be administering it. The reference for this is the College of Registered Nurses of BC (CRNBC) Standard of Practice "*Medication."*
- Pre-loading syringes is discouraged; more rationale is provided.

Page 5, Section 5.0 "Drawing up Biological Products in Vial Presentation:"

- Clarification that vial should be dated when it is first entered. Date should include day, month, and year.

Page 6, Section 6.0 "Drawing up Biological Products in Ampule Presentation:"

- Information regarding use of filter needles added. Filter needles are not indicated for drawing up biological products; rationale is provided.

Page 7, Section 7.0 "Standard Precautions:"

- Added information regarding use and disposal of safety needles.
- Added statement regarding the need to follow worksite health and safety protocol if accidental needle stick injury occurs.
- Added statement that immunization providers should have received a complete series of hepatitis B vaccine.

Page 7, Section 8.0 "Injection Sites, Needle Size, and Positioning:"

- Added new information and references regarding the importance of correct positioning of the client for administration of biological products.

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Page 8, Subsection 8.1 "Needle size and sites for subcutaneous (SC) injection:"

- Clarification that anterolateral thigh is the site of choice for SC injections for infants <12 months of age. The upper outer triceps area is the recommended site for individuals ≥12 months of age.

Page 9, Subsection 8.2 "Needle size and sites for intramuscular (IM) injection:"

- Added methods to assess depth of muscle mass and subsequent needle length selection.

Page 14, Section 9.0 "Injection Routes:"

- Added information supporting the importance of using the injection route recommended by the manufacturer for each biological product.

Page 15, Subsection 9.1 "Injection Routes for Biological Products:"

- More biological products added to the lists.
- Intradermal route added.
- Injection route for IPV changed to SC route only.
- Japanese encephalitis vaccine route removed, as this page is no longer in the Immunization Program Manual.

Page 16, Subsection 9.2 "Subcutaneous (SC) Injection Route:"

- Rapid injection is recommended as it reduces discomfort for the vaccinee.

Page 17, Subsection 9.3 "Intramuscular (IM) Injection Route:"

- Recommendation changed to inject biological product rapidly to reduce pain.
- Added note stating aspiration is not recommended prior to IM injection. Rationale is provided, including reference to website where viewer can see five short clips of rapid versus slow injection techniques.

Page 18, Subsection 9.4 "Intradermal (ID) injection route:"

- Added note to not apply a Band-Aid after a TB skin test as it can mark the skin and confuse skin test readings.

Page 19, Section 10.0 "Client Observation Following Immunization:"

- New section.

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Page 19, Section 11.0 "Management of Pain and Anxiety Before and During Administration of a Biological Product:"

- New section, with subsections on recommendations for a more successful immunization experience for the client (i.e., fostering a culture of empathy and respect, structuring the environment, and using calming and distraction techniques).

Page 21, Section 12.0 "Use of Topical Anesthetics:"

- New section.

Page 22, Section 13.0 "Management of Fever and Pain Following Immunization:"

- Provided rationale for recommending acetaminophen rather than ibuprofen.
- Added the statement that prophylactic use of acetaminophen in children prone to febrile seizures has been shown to be ineffective. There are no supporting clinical studies for the prophylactic use of acetaminophen in this group of children.
- Acetaminophen dosage recommendations changed to reflect current recommendation of 10-15 mg/kg four to five times daily.

Page 24, Section 14.0 "Documentation:"

- New section.

Page 25, Section 15.0 "References:"

- New section.

Please remove and destroy Section IV – Vaccine Administration, Chapter II – Immunization Program, Communicable Disease Control Manual.

Please insert the following replacement pages in the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter II – Immunization Program, Section IV – Administration of Biological Products:

Table of Contents
Pages 1 – 27 Dated October 2008

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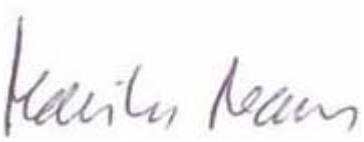
If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Karen Pielak, Nurse Epidemiologist or Cheryl McIntyre, Associate Nurse Epidemiologist at telephone (604) 660-6061, fax (604)660-0197 or by email at karen.pielak@bccdc.ca or cheryl.mcintyre@bccdc.ca

Sincerely,



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