Administrative Circular 2013:02

Date: January 23, 2013

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

Re: Revisions to the Communicable Disease Control Manual
Chapter II, Immunization Program, Biological Products, Section VII

Subject: Updating/inclusion of pages for new products to BC (IMOGAM® for rabies post-exposure prophylaxis and Varivax III), and several other product page updates

The following pages have been added or updated in the manual. For users of the online manual, these pages will replace existing pages in the online version. For those using a printed manual, please add or remove and insert the following pages into the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2 – Immunization Program, Section VII:

New Pages 54a and 54b
Human Rabies Immune Globulin (Rablg) (IMOGAM®)

IMOGAM® pages have been added to Section VII as this product is currently being supplied from BCCDC instead of the formerly supplied HYPERRAB™. The HYPERRAB™ page will remain as this product may be brought back into stock based on supply availability and contracts.

Insert new pages 54a and 54b Dated January 2013

Page 78
Varicella Vaccine (live attenuated viral) Varivax® III and Varilrix®

Under indications the first 2 bullets have been removed and replaced

- Susceptible persons born in 1999 or later are eligible for 2 dose series at ≥ 12 months
- Susceptible persons ≥ 13 years of age when commencing vaccination are eligible for a 2 dose series

A new footnote ☞ has been inserted at the end of

- ≥ 2 years after HSCT ☞

The recommendation that Varivax® III may be used for select immunocompromised individuals in the same manner as Varilrix® has been added. This is based on updated recommendations of the National Advisory Committee on Immunization published online in the 2012 Canadian Immunization Guide, Part 4, Varicella chapter. While the product monographs continue to differentiate on these indications, there are published data supporting such use, and the products are formulated using similar technology and virus strains.
A new bullet has been added
• Receipt of varicella vaccine for HIV clients is based on age, CD4+ T-lymphocyte count \((x 10^6 /l)\), and
  Percent Of Total Lymphocytes (Refer To Section III, Table 1.4.2 Referral Form: Varicella Vaccination
  For Immunocompromised Clients)

A new sentence with a hyperlink has been added
Either of the two available varicella vaccines may be used for these clients (Canadian Immunization Guide,
2012).

Page 79
Under initial series the first line has been changed
Susceptible\(\bullet\) persons born in 1999 or later:

Page 80
The footnotes from \(\bullet\) onwards have been re-numbered to include new footnote\(\bullet\)
\(\bullet\) HSCT recipients check VZV IgG serological status (use BCCDC Laboratory Services Requisition) and
specify the individual is immunocompromised) prior to vaccination and administer vaccine to serologically
varicella susceptible persons only. VZV vaccination may be considered 24 months post transplantation
provided there is no evidence of GVHD and immunosuppression has been discontinued for at least 3 months.
The individual must be deemed immunocompetent by a transplant specialist, and written approval is
required. Give only 1 dose. 1 month after VZV vaccine test for VZV IgG specify the individual is
immunocompromised. If antibody is not detectable, the individual should be offered Varicella Zoster Immune
Globulin on subsequent exposures to wild type varicella. Either of the two available vaccines may be used’

A new footnote \(\bullet\) has been added
Interchangeability: There are no data on the interchangeability of Varivax® III and Varilrix®. However
there is no biological reason for an inferior response to a series using both vaccines. For programmatic
reasons a different product may be used for the 2nd dose.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Karen McColgan, Public Health Resource Nurse,
at telephone (604) 707-2577, fax (604) 707-2515 or by email at karen.mccolgan@bccdc.ca.

Sincerely,

Monika Naus MD MHSc FRCPC FACPM
Medical Director
Immunization Programs and Vaccine Preventable Diseases Service
BC Centre for Disease Control

pc: BC Ministry of Health:

Dr. Perry Kendall  Dr. Eric Young
Provincial Health Officer  Deputy Provincial Health Officer
Craig Thompson  Warren O’Briain
Director, CD Prevention, Immunization  Executive Director
Communicable Disease and Addiction Prevention