

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 ⑤ has been inserted at the end of

- ≥ 2 years after HSCT ⑤ ⑥

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 ($\times 10^6/l$), 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

Susceptible¹ persons born in 1999 or later:

Page 80

The footnotes from 5 onwards have been re-numbered to include new footnote 6

6 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 7 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.

Remove and recycle pages 78-80

Insert new pages 78-80

Dated May 2012

Dated January 2013

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,



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