Dear [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 1: Communicable Disease Control

Please note the following changes to the Communicable Disease Control Manual – Chapter 1: Communicable Disease Control

(1) Hepatitis C – Updated – Discard and Replace Entire Section: Hepatitis C (July 2013)

- page 3 – Section 2.0: Definitions – 11 new terms defined. Laboratory definitions combined.
- page 8 – Section 3.0: Hepatitis C Virus – Epidemiology section updated. New Risk Factor table included.
- page 15 – Section 4.0: Laboratory Information – new HCV testing flowchart. Reflex testing clarified, genotype testing to be ordered with first HCV RNA and HCV RNA interpretation clarified. Reflex vaccination emphasized.
- page 20 – Section 5.0: Public Health Management – incorporated Hepatitis C Panorama Staging Bulletin from May 2015 into table format and updated definition of resolved hepatitis C.
- page 23 – Section 6.0: Acute Case Management – reorganized into sections. Hepatitis Education Canada’s Cascade of care is integrated and a broader approach to Case Management encouraged to consider the wider social determinants of health. General treatment information provided.
- Updated references, resources and formatting (including ‘Practitioner alerts’) throughout.

(2) Hepatitis C Testing Guideline – Quick Reference Guide for Health Care Providers

- New quick reference guide for HCV testing is located in Appendix E of the Hepatitis C Guideline
- Available as a standalone document for printing in Chapter 1: Communicable Disease Control

Date: August 22, 2016

Administrative Circular: 2016:14
(3) **Blood and Body Fluid Exposure (BBFE) Management Guideline and Blood and Body Fluid Exposure Management Tool**

- Updated all hyperlinks. This includes refreshed links to the following updated forms:
  - *Health 2339: Management of Percutaneous or Permucosal Exposure to Blood and Body Fluid Laboratory Requisition*
  - *Health 2340: Management of Percutaneous or Permucosal Exposure to Blood and Body Fluid Letter for Follow-Up Physician.*
- Aligned to reflect updates to the newly revised HIV and HCV guidelines including alterations to follow up testing timelines to reflect the 4th generation HIV test
- Page 4 – formatting changes for clarity - *Diagnostic Tools*
- Page 8 – formatting changes for clarity - *Laboratory Testing*

(4) **BCCDC Sample Letter: Isolated Hepatitis B Core Antibody Positive Test Results**

- Updated for clarity and consistency in follow-up care for isolated hepatitis B Core positive test results.
- Standardized letter to place greater focus on the client and the ordering health care provider; and decrease the responsibility of Public Health to automatically conduct follow-up of contacts.
- Contact follow-up will be a considered by the ordering provider in relation to individual client care.
- Recommendations are simplified to consider offering one HBV vaccine series and no routine follow-up.

Please remove the following section from the Communicable Disease Control Chapter 1: Communicable Disease Control, Hepatitis C

- BCCDC Guideline: *Hepatitis C; July 2013* (pp. 1-38)
- BCCDC Guideline: *Blood and Body Fluid Exposure Management; July 2015 (pp.1-27)*
- BCCDC Guideline: *Blood and Body Fluid Exposure Management Tool; July 2015 (pp.1-12).*

Please insert the following updated section to the Communicable Disease Control Chapter 1: Communicable Disease Control, Hepatitis C

- BCCDC Guideline: *Hepatitis C; August 2016 (pp. 1-47)*
- BCCDC Guideline: *Blood and Body Fluid Exposure Management; August 2016 (pp.1-27)*
- BCCDC Guideline: *Blood and Body Fluid Exposure Management Tool; August 2016 (pp.1-12).*
- BCCDC Sample Letter: *Isolated Hepatitis B Core Antibody Positive Test Results; August, 2016*
The following members of the BCCDC Clinical Prevention Services team are available for further information or to answer questions:

- Cheryl Prescott, Senior Practice Leader, Clinical Prevention Services  
  (p) 604-707-5651 or Cheryl.Prescott@bccdc.ca
- Stephanie Gin, Nurse Educator, Clinical Prevention Services  
  (p) 604-707-5628 or Stephanie.Gin@bccdc.ca
  Monica Durigon, Nurse Educator, Clinical Prevention Services  
  (p) 604-707-2435 or Monica.Durigon@bccdc.ca

Sincerely,

Mel Krajden

Mel Krajden, MD, FRCP(C)  
Medical Director, BCCDC Public Health Laboratory  
Medical Head, Hepatitis - Clinical Prevention Services  
BC Centre for Disease Control

pc: BCCDC

Mark Tyndall, MD, ScD, FRCPC  
Executive Medical Director  
BC Centre for Disease Control

Ministry of Health

Dr. Perry Kendall  
Provincial Health Officer

Dr. Bonnie Henry  
Deputy Provincial Health Officer

Warren O’Brian  
Executive Director  
Communicable Disease, Addiction Prevention

Craig Thompson  
Director, CD Prevention – Immunization