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

Re: Update to Communicable Disease Control Manual,
Chapter 2: Immunization, Introduction, Part 4 – Biological Products &
Appendix B – Administration of Biological Products

Introduction
Subsection 5.4 has been added to provide clarity on publicly-funded vaccine eligibility for individuals with temporary study and/or work permits.

Please remove page number: 7 and Table of Contents dated February 2019
Please add new page number: 7 and Table of Contents dated August 2019

Part 4 – Biological Products
Rabies Vaccines
Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (Imovax® Rabies and RabAvert®)
Due to the increased demand for rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (RPEP), and the resulting decline in vaccine inventory, antigen-sparing regimens for RPEP are being implemented. The intradermal (ID) route of administration is currently PREFERENTIALLY RECOMMENDED to optimize the use of the vaccine. As such, the following revisions have been made:

- DOSES AND SCHEDULE: content related to the ID administration of rabies vaccine has been added. Hyperlinks have been included to the Interim Direction for the use of rabies vaccine for post-exposure prophylaxis in BC and Appendix B – Administration of Biological Products.
• ADMINISTRATION: content added indicating that when a vial is being used for multiple ID doses, the reconstituted vaccine can be used for up to 6 hours if stored at +2°C to +8°C.

• SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: content added indicating a separation of 2.5 cm between vaccines when another vaccine is being co-administered in the same limb as an ID dose of rabies vaccine.

Please remove page numbers: 1-3 dated October 2018
Please add new page numbers: 1-4 dated August 2019

Appendix B – Administration of Biological Products

• Table 1: Administration Routes for Immunizing Agents has been revised to indicate that ID administration of rabies vaccine may be considered for post-exposure immunization.

• Subsection 14.8.2 Intradermal (ID) Injection Route has been updated to include pictures and a video link demonstrating ID administration of biological products. Additional information specific to the ID administration of rabies vaccine has been added, including the recommended administration sites.

Please remove entire section: dated December 2018
Please add entire section: dated August 2019
If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Christine Halpert, Senior Practice Leader, BCCDC (telephone: 604-707-2555 / email: christine.halpert@bccdc.ca) or Stephanie Meier, Public Health Resource Nurse, BCCDC (telephone: 604-707-2577 / email: stephanie.meier@bccdc.ca).

Sincerely,

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