

April 2018

Re: Rotavirus Immunization Program: Transitioning to pentavalent rotavirus vaccine (RV5, RotaTeq®)

Dear Health Care Provider,

Beginning May 2018 BC will begin transitioning from the monovalent rotavirus vaccine (RV1, Rotarix®) to the pentavalent rotavirus vaccine (RV5, RotaTeq®) in the infant rotavirus immunization program. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization recommends routine infant rotavirus vaccination with either rotavirus vaccine product, without preferential recommendation for one over the other. As both products are live attenuated vaccines that are given orally, the main difference with this product change is the immunization schedule, as the schedule for RotaTeq® is **3 doses**, as compared to 2 doses for Rotarix®.

RotaTeq® vaccine is given orally at 2, 4 and 6 months of age. The maximum age for dose 1 of RotaTeq® is 20 weeks less 1 day and the maximum age for the last dose is 8 months. Ideally, infants who begin their series with Rotarix® will be able to complete their series with the same product. In order to achieve this it is important to balance the remaining Rotarix® stock on hand to ensure completion of vaccine series started on this product whenever possible, while also minimizing vaccine wastage. If any dose of the series was RotaTeq® (or the product is unknown), a total of 3 doses should be administered.

Contraindications for the two products are the same.

For questions about RotaTeq® vaccine, please contact your local public health unit or refer to the following resources:

BCCDC's Q&A for HCP: Updates to the Rotavirus Immunization Program: Product Change

http://www.bccdc.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/Guidelines%20and%20Forms/Guidelines%20and%20Manuals/Immunization/Vaccine%20Info/Rotavirus_QandA_Apr_2018.pdf

The BC Immunization Manual:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/communicable-disease-control-manual/immunization>

ImmunizeBC:

www.immunizebc.ca