



BC Centre for Disease Control
An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

Date: July 22, 2010

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 2, Immunization Program**

Please note the following changes to the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2 – Immunization Program: Section VI, Management of Biologicals:

Page 1: 1.0, “The Cold Chain”:

- Reworded last paragraph related to Vaccine Stability Chart, and removed reference to a particular date for a chart, in order to avoid on-going revisions to this page whenever the chart is revised and re-dated. The latest version of the Vaccine Stability Chart sent to Biological Product Consultants is dated July 2010. All previously issued Vaccine Stability Charts and any Addenda should be destroyed.

Page 5: 3.2, “Temperature Monitoring”:

- New information: the TempTale® monitoring device will show an alarm symbol (a BELL) when the temperature has been out of the +0.5°C to +8°C range.
- Correction for “Cold” temperature indicator card: when the temperature reaches the threshold point, the liquid in the bulb freezes, the bulb cracks, and the background is stained violet, not red as previously described.

Administrative Circular 2010:16

Page 7, 4.1, “Vaccine Delivery to Health Units”:

- The rationale for immediate refrigeration of products delivered by refrigerated truck is included; refrigerated truck shipments are packed without ice or gel packs, and the temperature in the packing boxes can rise dramatically unless the products are refrigerated on arrival.
- Addition of detailed TempTale 4 instructions.

Page 8, 4.2, “Vaccine Storage”:

- “First to expire, first out” has replaced “First in, first out” as a direction regarding placement of vaccine in the refrigerator. Under special circumstances, a product with a shorter expiry date than previous like products may be delivered to the field; “first expired” is thus more accurate than “first in.” The products with the shortest date to expiry are to be placed at the front of the refrigerator, and used before the same product with a longer expiry date. This will help reduce vaccine wastage from product expiry, and prevent vaccine errors from administration of an expired product.

Page 9, 4.3, “Vaccine orders”:

- Kindergarten clinics have been added to the list of seasonal or program demands.
- “Frequency of delivery from BCCDC or RHA central depot” has been added to the list of considerations when ordering vaccines.

Page 10, 4.3, “Vaccine Orders”:

- The “Biologicals Requisition Form” is renamed “Biologicals Order Form.”
- Pharmacists added to the list of community immunizers that may order vaccines from their local health unit office.

Pages 12 & 13, 4.7, “Returning Biological Products”:

- A Field Return Authorization Number will be provided only when all required information in the Field Return Form is complete. Incomplete forms will be faxed back to the Health Unit.
- New information added regarding returns for redistribution:
 - Do **not** return vaccines for redistribution without consultation and authorization by BCCDC Vaccine and Pharmacy Services.
 - **All** of the redistribution criteria must be met.
 - The redistribution form must be signed by the Biological Products Consultant for the region, **and** the Biological Products Monitor at the local health unit.
 - A completed Field Return Form must also accompany vaccines being returned for redistribution.
- The “Reasons for Return” codes have been expanded to more accurately track vaccine returns and wastage.

- “Reasons for Return” now includes product that is determined to be unusable following a power outage, an equipment malfunction, or a human error (vaccine left out of refrigerator, refrigerator door left open).
- “Cold chain incident in transit” is further defined as “in transit BCCDC to HA/HU” or “in transit within HA.”
- “Overstocked” is now defined as “Surplus (for BCCDC redistribution)”. This means that **ONLY** vaccines being returned for redistribution will be coded as “Surplus.”
- Choose the primary reason for return and use one return code only.

Page 17: “Algorithm 1: Cold Chain Incident within Health Authority”:

- New algorithm to replace the algorithm for “Cold Chain Incident Reporting.”
- Updated fax numbers.

Page 18, “Algorithm 2: Cold Chain Incident from BCCDC to Health Authority”:

- New algorithm.

Page 18, 7.0, “Forms”:

- List includes the renamed “Biologicals Order Form.”
- Note: all forms now reference “**Doses**” rather than “Units.”
- TempTale4Temperature Monitoring Device (TT4TMD) forms added; one form is for use with deliveries by refrigerated truck, and one for courier deliveries.
- All updated forms are available on the BCCDC web site at <http://www.bccdc.ca/imm-vac/ForHealthProfessionals/VaccineAndPharmacyServices.htm>

Page 20, 8.0, “Resources”:

- “Cold Chain Incident Algorithms” have been added to the resource list for Public Health. These are the algorithms on pages 17 and 18 of this document.
- TempTale Directions updated.
- The link for cold chain resources has been updated to <http://www.bccdc.ca/imm-vac/ForHealthProfessionals/ColdChainInfo.htm>

Please remove and destroy the following pages from the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2 – Immunization Program, Section VI, Management of Biologicals:

Table of Contents

Dated May 2009

Pages 1 - 19

Dated May 2009

Note: Destroy all previous copies of the Biologicals Requisition Form, Cold Chain Incident Form and Field Return Form.

Please insert the following pages in the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2 – Immunization Program, Section VI: Management of Biologicals:

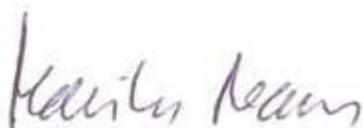
Table of Contents & Pages 1 - 21

Dated July 2010

All new forms are dated July 2010 and are posted at <http://www.bccdc.ca/imm-vac/ForHealthProfessionals/VaccineAndPharmacyServices.htm>

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Cheryl McIntyre, Associate Nurse Epidemiologist, or Karen Pielak, Nurse Epidemiologist, at telephone (604) 707-2510, fax (604) 707-2516 or by email at cheryl.mcintyre@bccdc.ca or karen.pielak@bccdc.ca

Sincerely,



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BC Centre for Disease Control

pc: Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport:

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Provincial Health Officer

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