



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

September 3, 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 revisions to the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2 – Immunization Program:

SECTION VII, BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS -

Pages 24 and 25, “Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (GARDASIL™)”:

- Revisions have been made for the implementation of the Grade 6 girls’ extended HPV vaccine schedule. The first two doses will be given in grade 6 with a minimum interval of 6 months between doses. The third dose will be given in grade 11.
- The BC Communicable Disease Policy Advisory Committee (CDPAC) reviewed the results at 24 months of a study of two doses given at 0 and 6 months to girls aged 9-13 years. The CDPAC recommended this schedule for girls in grade 6 in the BC program. The third dose is being planned to ensure sustained protection into sexually active years of life.
- The extended HPV schedule will be offered **ONLY** to girls entering grade 6 in September 2010 and as part of the ongoing grade 6 HPV vaccine program in subsequent years. This decision was made for programmatic reasons and to ensure that the extended schedule can be completed before the girls’ graduation.

Administrative Circular 2010:17

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- Grade 6 girls who are **known** to have immune system defects associated with solid organ transplant, stem cell transplant, or HIV infection should receive HPV vaccine in the three dose schedule at 0, 2 and 6 months. The immunosuppressed state results in a less robust immune response and those with such conditions are at risk of persistent HPV infection and associated HPV disease if they become infected.
- Grade 9 girls will be given 3 doses of HPV vaccine using the 0, 2, and 6 month schedule. The final year of the HPV grade 9 program starts in September 2010; these girls will continue to receive the routine 3 dose schedule in order to complete the series while in grade 9.
- All females older than grade 6 should be vaccinated on the 0, 2, and 6 month schedule. Girls that missed the vaccine series in grades 6 or 9 and that present later for vaccine should be offered HPV vaccine according to the 0, 2, and 6 month schedule.

Please remove and destroy the following pages from the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2 – Immunization Program:

Section VII, Biological Products -

Pages 24 and 25

Dated October 2009

Please insert the following pages in the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2 – Immunization Program:

Section VII, Biological Products -

Pages 24 and 25

Dated September 2010

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

Sincerely,



Dr. Monika Naus,
Medical Director, Immunization Program and
Associate Medical Director, Epidemiology Services
BC Centre for Disease Control

pc: Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport:

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Provincial Health Officer

Dr. Eric Young
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