



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

October 14, 2010

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

Re: 2010-11 Seasonal Trivalent Influenza Vaccine

Revisions have been made to the influenza vaccine pages subsequent to decisions made at the BC Communicable Disease Policy Committee meeting held October 8, 2010. Results of early clinical trials were reviewed at that meeting. These trials were primarily designed to examine safety and were conducted with this season's trivalent vaccine. Subjects included those who had received the adjuvanted influenza vaccine last year. The studies indicated the occurrence of adverse events recognized to occur with influenza vaccine, such as malaise, fatigue, headache, and arthralgia, but also a constellation of symptoms consistent with previously reported rates of oculorespiratory syndrome in about 5% of vaccinees, cough in 4% of recipients and attributable to vaccine based on risk difference calculations compared to placebo, and generalized non-urticarial pruritus in 1% of recipients. These events did not require medical attention or hospitalization but are more clearly highlighted as observed events in the materials for this season.

Please note the following revisions to the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2 – Immunization Program, **Section VII – Biological Products pages 32, 33, and 34:**

(1) CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- Added “Severe oculo-respiratory syndrome (ORS) after a previous dose of influenza vaccine.” A description of severe ORS is provided in a footnote.

Administrative Circular 2010:19

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(2) ADVERSE EVENTS:

- Added the following:
 - “About 1 in 20 people may have cough, sore throat, hoarseness or red eyes, sometimes called “oculo-respiratory syndrome.”
 - Generalized itching may occur, but is uncommon.”
- The section about the historical occurrence of oculo-respiratory syndrome has been moved to a footnote.

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

Pages 32, 33, and 34

Dated September 2010

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

Pages 32, 33, and 34

Dated October 2010

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Danuta Skowronski, Physician Epidemiologist, Epidemiology Services, BC Centre for Disease Control at phone: 604-707-2511 or e-mail: danuta.skowronski@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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