

**Date:** July 22, 2013

**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 II Immunization Program, Section VII, Biological Products, Human Papillomavirus vaccine GARDASIL® [Quadrivalent (Types 16 and 18) Recombinant] Supplier: Merck Frosst

The GARDASIL® vaccine schedule is changing in September 2013 to reflect administration of the third dose in grade 9 to girls who received two doses in grade 6.

The pages for this product have been updated as follows:

**Indications:**

The indications have been simplified to reflect that this vaccine may be offered to any previously unimmunized girl born on/after 1994 and in grade 6 and older. The program began in fall 2008 in both grades 6 and 9, and the eligible cohort has now aged to encompass girls through the end of high school and beyond. While efforts should continue to improve uptake in grade 6, catch-up activities are encouraged to immunize girls who declined the vaccine in grade 6.

The unfunded indications have been simplified and are in keeping with the NACI recommendations found in the [Statement on HPV vaccine published in 2012](#).

**Doses and Schedule:**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> dose for grade 6 girls receiving two doses in grade 6 has been changed to grade 9. Rationale: This change is being made for operational reasons because public health nurses offer tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis vaccine to students in grade 9 in BC, but there is no immunization program in grade 11. A new immunization program in grade 11 would be more resource intensive. As well, based on BC Ministry of Education data, school leaving rates are higher after grade 10 with 11% of students not returning for grade 11, compared to only 3% of students leaving each year after grades 6 through 8.

**Special Considerations:**

This section has been reworded to bring it in line with the recently updated Cervarix® pages.

Information about the Merck Frosst Canada Ltd. Pregnancy Register has been removed, as this register has completed its target enrolment and has been discontinued.

The use of footnotes is being minimized, with relevant information incorporated into the various sections such as the Serological Testing or Special Considerations sections, or referenced to general immunization sections of the manual (e.g., coadministration with other vaccines).

The pages have been reformatted to reflect the new format for the Biologicals Products section.

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

Section VII, Biological Products, 24a and 24b

Dated April, 2012

**Please insert the following pages** in the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter II Immunization Program:

Section VII, Biological Products, 24a and 24b

Dated July, 2013

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or Karen McColgan, Public Health Resource Nurse, at telephone (604) 707-2577, fax (604) 707-2515 or by email at [karen.mccolgan@bccdc.ca](mailto:karen.mccolgan@bccdc.ca)

Sincerely,



Monika Naus, MD MHS Sc FRCPC FACPM  
Medical Director  
Immunization Programs and Vaccine Preventable Diseases Service  
BC Centre for Disease Control

cc: BC Ministry of Health:

Dr. Perry Kendall  
Provincial Health Officer

Dr. Eric Young  
Deputy Provincial Health Officer

Craig Thompson  
Director, CD Prevention – Immunization

Warren O'Briain  
Executive Director  
Communicable Disease and Addiction Prevention