



BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority

Immunization Programs and Vaccine Preventable Diseases Service
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Date: December 15, 2023

Administrative Circular: 2023:33

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

**Re: Update to Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2: Immunization,
Part 2 – Immunization of Special Populations**

Part 2 – Immunization of Special Populations

Individuals at high risk for vaccine preventable diseases (overview)

Individuals at High Risk for Vaccine Preventable Diseases

- Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cell (CART) Therapy has been added.
- Tables 1, 2 and 3 have been revised for clarity.
- The following populations have been added to table 3: Two-Spirit, Transgender, and non-binary individuals; people who use illicit drugs; and people experiencing homelessness.

Please remove page numbers: 1-3 dated August 2018
Please add new page numbers: 1-3 dated December 2023

Immunocompromised individuals (general information)

Immunocompromised Individuals

- The following revisions have been made:
 - CART Therapy has been added.
 - Therapeutic monoclonal antibodies has been added to list of immunosuppressive therapies.
 - Clarification has been added to the examples of chronic liver disease.

Please remove page number: 1 dated November 2010
Please add new page number: 1 dated December 2023

Page 1 of 4

Referral Forms

Referral Form for Varicella Vaccination

CART therapy recipients have been added to the HSCT category.

Please remove page numbers: 1-2 dated November 2023
Please add new page numbers: 1-2 dated December 2023

Referral Form for MMR Vaccination

- CART therapy recipients have been added to the HSCT category.
- An additional footnote has been included to indicate that HSCT and CART therapy recipients are considered susceptible to MMR regardless of disease or immunization history prior to the transplant.

Please remove page numbers: 1-2 dated June 2017
Please add new page numbers: 1-2 dated December 2023

Specific Immunocompromising Conditions

Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (HSCT) and Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cell (CART) Therapy

- Content related to Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cell (CART) Therapy has been added throughout the HSCT pages. CART therapy is a novel treatment for hematologic malignancies, and, similarly to HSCT recipients, immune memory may be lost following treatment. As such, recipients of CART therapy should be regarded as “never immunized”, and re-immunization is recommended as for HSCT recipients.
- COVID-19 vaccine considerations have been added.
- Content on zoster vaccine has been revised to:
 - Indicate that SHINGRIX® may be considered for immunocompromised individuals 18 years of age and older, per updates to the product monograph
 - Indicate that First Nations Health Benefits provides coverage for SHINGRIX® for First Nations Elders who are 60 years and older
- Inactivated influenza vaccine can now be given as early as 3 months post-HSCT/CART therapy. The medical specialist will determine the appropriate time to commence immunizations and will provide written guidance to the client for sharing with the immunizing Public Health Nurse.

- Initiation of PCV series can now be given as early as 3 months post-HSCT/CART therapy for adults. The medical specialist will determine the appropriate time to commence immunizations and will provide written guidance to the client for sharing with the immunizing Public Health Nurse.
- The following content has been added to Table 1 and Table 2 footnotes related to measuring measles and rubella IgG 1 month after the 2nd dose of MMR, “if measles antibody is not detectable, the client should be offered immune globulin on subsequent exposure to wild-type measles.”
- Content related to faxing immunization records for adult recipients to the Long Term Follow Up Clinic at the Leukemia/Bone Marrow Transplant Survivorship Program has been removed as records can be viewed through Care Connect.
- References related to CART therapy have been added to reference list.

Please remove page numbers: 1-7 dated January 2020
Please add new page numbers: 1-7 dated December 2023

Approval for Immunization of Pediatric Oncology, HSCT and CART Therapy Clients Who Have Completed Treatment

CART therapy recipients have been added to the approval letter.

Please remove page number: 1 dated August 2018
Please add new page number: 1 dated December 2023

Immunosuppressive Therapy

- COVID-19 vaccine has been added to the recommended vaccines for those on immunosuppressive therapy.
- Two additional references have been added to support the administration of rotavirus vaccine to infants born to mothers on immunosuppressive medication.

Please remove page numbers: 1-2 dated June 2017
Please add new page numbers: 1-3 dated December 2023

Please also remove the Title Page and Table of Contents for Part 2 – Immunization of Special Populations dated October 2020 and replace with the enclosed updated Title Page and Table of Contents dated December 2023.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Stephanie Meier, Senior Practice Leader, BCCDC (telephone: 604-707-2577 / email: stephanie.meier@bccdc.ca).

Sincerely,



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

pc:

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