



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

Communicable Diseases and Immunization Service
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Date: February 28, 2019

Administrative Circular: 2019:03

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, Introduction, Part 2 – Immunization of Special
Populations & Part 3 – Management of Anaphylaxis in a Non-Hospital Setting**

Introduction

The following are the key changes or updates:

- The British Columbia College of Nursing Professionals (BCCNP) name has been updated.
- Section 5.2 *Immunization Services for Travelers Outside of Canada* has been revised to indicate that such individuals are generally not eligible for routine publicly funded vaccines, with the exception of individuals requiring post-exposure prophylaxis.
- Section 5.3 *Immunization Services for Students from Outside of Canada* has been added, indicating that foreign students enrolled in BC schools (elementary/secondary) may be immunized with vaccines for which they are age-eligible.

Please remove entire section: dated July 2017
Please add new section: dated February 2019

Part 2 – Immunization of Special Populations

International Travelers

Information related to measles activity and immunization recommendations for travelers has been added to this section.

Please remove page: 1 dated January 2016
Please add new page: 1 dated February 2019

Part 3 - Management of Anaphylaxis in a Non-Hospital Setting

The section has been revised to reflect current evidence and to align with the implementation of the provincial regulatory decision support tool for nurses titled, “Anaphylaxis: Initial Emergency Treatment by Nurses (Adult and Pediatric)”.

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The following are the key changes or updates:

- The introduction has been revised to include the intended audience for these guidelines, as well as a link to the provincial DST: *Anaphylaxis: Initial Emergency Treatment by Nurses (Adult and Pediatric)*, to which all nursing professionals in the province may refer. The clinical content and protocol for managing anaphylaxis in the provincial DST and the BC Immunization Manual, Part 3 are consistent; however Part 3 includes important immunization specific information and reporting regulations.
- Content related to the biphasic course of anaphylaxis has been updated.
- Table 1: *Frequency of occurrence of signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis* has been updated.
- The Fainting and Anxiety/Pain subsections have been updated to include a hyperlink to *Appendix D – Reducing Immunization Injection Pain*.
- The *Anaphylaxis versus Fainting and Anxiety* table has been re-organized to be consistent with the provincial DST.
- The use of Benadryl® (diphenhydramine) is no longer recommended as an adjunct to epinephrine during the initial emergency treatment of anaphylaxis, and thus has been removed from the guidelines.
- Administration of Epinephrine section has been updated as follows:
 - Epinephrine is to be administered intramuscularly in the vastus lateralis ONLY, regardless of the site of injection of the immunization or client age. If immunizations have been received in both legs, epinephrine is to be administered at least 2.5 cm (1 inch) from the immunization injection site.
 - Content related to the refusal of epinephrine by a vaccinee or parent/guardian has been revised to indicate that the standard information provided in the process of obtaining informed consent prior to the administration of biological products includes the provision of emergency treatment of anaphylaxis.
 - Content related to the dosage and age indications of client-owned epinephrine auto-injectors has been updated.
- The Emergency Treatment of Anaphylaxis algorithm has been added, replacing the previous bulleted instructions in this subsection. This algorithm mirrors the algorithm contained in the provincial DST: *Anaphylaxis: Initial Emergency Treatment by Nurses (Adult and Pediatric)*.
- The names of specific electronic public health information systems (e.g., Panorama, PARIS) have been removed.
- Recommendation added regarding the storage of epinephrine at room temperature and not in the refrigerator.
- Key revisions to the list of suggested epinephrine kit contents include:
 - Benadryl® has been removed
 - 5/8” needles has been removed
 - Worksheet for Events Managed as Anaphylaxis Following Immunization has been added.
- References have been updated.

For additional information, please refer to the [Question & Answer](#) document for immunization providers. This Q&A can be found at: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/immunization#Clinical--Resources>, under 'New Immunization Program Updates and Q&As'.

Please remove entire section: dated November 2016
Please add new section: dated February 2019

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Christine Halpert, Senior Practice Leader, BCCDC (telephone: 604-707-2555 / email: christine.halpert@bccdc.ca) or Stephanie Meier, Public Health Resource Nurse, BCCDC (telephone: 604-707-2577 / email: stephanie.meier@bccdc.ca).

Sincerely,



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