



BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority

Date: August 16, 2019

Administrative Circular: 2019:08

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 4 – Biological Products &
Appendix B – Administration of Biological Products**

Introduction

Subsection 5.4 has been added to provide clarity on publicly-funded vaccine eligibility for individuals with temporary study and/or work permits.

**Please remove page number: 7 and Table of Contents dated February 2019
Please add new page number: 7 and Table of Contents dated August 2019**

Part 4 – Biological Products

Rabies Vaccines

Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (Imovax® Rabies and RabAvert®)

Due to the increased demand for rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (RPEP), and the resulting decline in vaccine inventory, antigen-sparing regimens for RPEP are being implemented. The intradermal (ID) route of administration is currently **PREFERENTIALLY RECOMMENDED** to optimize the use of the vaccine. As such, the following revisions have been made:

- **DOSES AND SCHEDULE:** content related to the ID administration of rabies vaccine has been added. Hyperlinks have been included to the [Interim Direction for the use of rabies vaccine for post-exposure prophylaxis in BC](#) and [Appendix B – Administration of Biological Products](#).

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- ADMINISTRATION: content added indicating that when a vial is being used for multiple ID doses, the reconstituted vaccine can be used for up to 6 hours if stored at +2°C to +8°C.
- SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: content added indicating a separation of 2.5 cm between vaccines when another vaccine is being co-administered in the same limb as an ID dose of rabies vaccine.

Please remove page numbers: 1-3 dated October 2018

Please add new page numbers: 1-4 dated August 2019

Appendix B – Administration of Biological Products

- *Table 1: Administration Routes for Immunizing Agents* has been revised to indicate that ID administration of rabies vaccine may be considered for post-exposure immunization.
- *Subsection 14.8.2 Intradermal (ID) Injection Route* has been updated to include pictures and a video link demonstrating ID administration of biological products. Additional information specific to the ID administration of rabies vaccine has been added, including the recommended administration sites.

Please remove entire section: dated December 2018

Please add entire section: dated August 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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