

Date: 30 August 2016

To: South Zone Physicians

From: Office of the Medical Officers of Health - South Zone

RE: NETCARE, HPV9 and INFANRIX-HEXA[®]

Immunizations on NETCARE

Effective 29 June 2016, Netcare includes detailed immunization data from Alberta Health Services (AHS) immunizers in all zones (this includes all publicly-funded and some travel vaccines) and pharmacist immunizers (this includes influenza vaccine). This information is uploaded from Alberta Health's immunization repository program ImmARI. This data assists all immunizers, primary care providers, emergency clinicians and specialists to make clinical decisions. For a complete list of immunizations that are available, please refer to the Quick Reference sheets available on the Alberta Netcare Learning Centre: www.AlbertaNetcare.ca/LearningCentre/Immunizations.htm

Human Papillomavirus Vaccine 9-valent (HPV9)

Effective 1 September 2016, Gardasil[®] 9 (HPV9) vaccine will replace Gardasil[®] 4 (HPV4) in the Routine Immunization Program in Alberta. Male and female students in Grades 5 are eligible for provincially funded HPV vaccine. A catch-up program is available for grade 9 male students until June 2018. Once a student becomes eligible for this vaccine, they remain eligible until the end of grade 12. The goal of the HPV immunization program is to decrease the morbidity and mortality of cervical cancer, its precursors and other HPV-related cancers in both female and males. High-risk HPV types can lead to cervical and anogenital cancers, as well as certain cancers of the head and neck. HPV types 16 and 18 cause approximately 70% of cervical cancers, and the additional HPV types 31, 33, 45, 52, and 58 (included in Gardasil[®] 9) account for approximately 15 to 19% of cervical cancers.

Gardasil[®] 9 is licensed in Canada for females 9-45 years of age, and males 9-26 years of age. A vaccine series initiated with Gardasil[®] 4 or Cervarix[®] (bivalent) may be completed with Gardasil[®] 9, although the preference is to complete the series with the same product. There is insufficient evidence at this time to recommend, at a population level, the re-immunization with HPV9 of individuals who have completed an immunization series with another HPV vaccine. HPV9 has been authorized to be administered at months 0, 2 and 6 (NACI, 2016).

INFANRIX-HEXA[®] (combined Tetanus, Diphtheria, acellular Pertussis, Hepatitis B, Polio, *Haemophilus influenzae* b) Vaccine

Effective 1 September 2016, Infanrix-Hexa[®] vaccine will be used in infants and children 2-23 months of age who require hepatitis B vaccine as part of their routine immunization schedule. Eligible children include: those born to or household contacts of hepatitis B carriers and children of families from hepatitis B endemic countries. Infants who receive hepatitis B vaccine and HBIG at birth are eligible to complete the hepatitis B series with Infanrix-Hexa[®].

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

- National Advisory Committee on Immunization
<http://www.healthycanadians.gc.ca/publications/healthy-living-vie-saine/human-papillomavirus-9-valent-vaccine-update-recommendation-mises-a-jour-recommandations-papillome-humain-vaccin-nonavalent/index-eng.php>
- Alberta Health Services - Immunization Program Standards Manual
www.albertahealthservices.ca/10802.asp
- Immunize Alberta - Immunization Resources for Parents
www.immunizealberta.ca
- Alberta Health Services - Medical Officers of Health webpage
www.albertahealthservices.ca/medstaff/Page7082.aspx

If you have further questions, please contact the Medical Officer of Health at 403-388-6007.