

Rotavirus Immunization Program: Product Change

Attention: Physicians, Midwives, Emergency Departments, Infection Control Practitioners, Nurse Practitioners, Walk-In Clinics/Urgent Care Clinics, Family Health Teams, Central LHIN, NSM LHIN

Date: July 24, 2018

The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) has announced that Ontario is transitioning from the monovalent rotavirus vaccine, Rotarix® (Rot-1) to the pentavalent rotavirus vaccine RotaTeq® (Rot-5) in the infant rotavirus immunization program. Ontario is switching products as a result of the federally coordinated vaccine purchasing program.

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization recommends routine infant rotavirus vaccination with either of the rotavirus vaccine products. They do not preferentially recommend one product over the other. Both products are live attenuated vaccines that are given orally. They differ in their authorized schedules, RotaTeq® is a **3 dose series** and Rotarix® is a **2 dose series**. RotaTeq® vaccine doses are routinely given at 2, 4 and 6 months of age.

Ideally, infants should start and complete their series with the same product, whenever possible. If the product received for the first dose is unknown or the first dose was Rotarix® which is no longer available, complete the vaccine series with RotaTeq® for a total of 3 doses of rotavirus vaccine. See Table 2 below for scenarios to complete a rotavirus vaccine series. We would recommend that babies born on or after July 1st 2018 are started on RotaTeq® to help ensure they complete their series with the same product.

Table 1: Comparison Chart for RV Vaccines Licensed for Use in Canada

	Rotarix®	RotaTeq®
Manufacturer	GlaxoSmithKline Inc.	Merck Canada Inc.
Authorized Use	First dose can be administered from the age of 6 weeks. Interval of at least 4 weeks between doses. Administration of the 2 doses should be completed by the age of 24 weeks.	First dose should be administered at 6 to 12 weeks of age Subsequent doses should be administered at an interval of 4 to 10 weeks between each dose, which includes a 2, 4 and 6 months immunization schedule. Completion of third dose by 32 weeks of age.
Dose	1.5 mL	2 mL
Route	Oral	Oral
Schedule	Dose 1: two months of age Dose 2: four months of age	Dose 1: two months of age Dose 2: four months of age Dose 3: six months of age



Table 2: Scenarios to Complete RV Vaccine Series

Scenario	Response
1st dose of Rotarix® was given at 2 months and Rotarix® is available	Provide 2nd dose of Rotarix® at 4 months of age – Series is complete
1st dose of Rotarix® was given at 2 months and Rotarix® is not available	Provide a 2nd dose of RotaTeq® at 4 months and a 3rd dose of RotaTeq® at 6 months of age – Series is complete
If the product is unknown for the 1st dose of rotavirus vaccine (e.g., infant arrives from out of province with an immunization record that does not specify which rotavirus vaccine was received)	Provide 2 doses of RotaTeq® at 4 and 6 months of age – Series complete

Both vaccines are available to order using the current vaccine order form on the Health Care Portal of the Health Unit website at www.smdhu.org/PCPortal. We will do our best to accommodate requests, and once our inventory of Rotarix™ has been depleted, we will fill orders with RotaTeq®.

If you have questions please call the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's Vaccine Preventable Disease Program at 705-721-7520 Ext. 8806 or toll free at 1-877-751-7520 Ext. 8806 Monday to Friday between 8:30 am - 4:30 pm.