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Rotavirus Immunization Program – Product Change

Attention: Physicians – Family Practitioners, Nurse and Nurse practitioners, Community Health Centres, Family Health Teams, Walk-in Clinics, Indigenous Health Care & Community, Midwife, LHIN

Date: July 26, 2021

The Ministry of Health has announced that Ontario is transitioning from the RotaTeq® (Rota-5) rotavirus vaccine to the Rotarix® (Rota-1) vaccine for the infant rotavirus immunization program, starting August 2021.

- All infants ***born on or after June 1, 2021*** (due for their first dose in August at 2 months of age) should be started with **Rotarix®**.
- Infants ***born before June 1, 2021 and started their series with RotaTeq®*** should complete their 3-dose rotavirus immunization series with **RotaTeq®** vaccine, based on vaccine availability. If RotaTeq® was the vaccine used to start the immunization series and the same vaccine product is not available, complete the series with Rotarix®.

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends either vaccine (Rotarix® or RotaTeq®) for protection against rotavirus. NACI does not make a preferential recommendation for one product over the other.

Comparison Chart for Rotavirus Vaccines Licensed for Use in Canada

	Rotarix® (Rot-1)	RotaTeq® (Rot-5)
Vaccine	Live, monovalent, attenuated human rotavirus vaccine. Protects against G1, G2, G3, G4, and G9 serotypes.	Live, pentavalent rotavirus vaccine. Protects against G1, G2, G3, G4, and G-serotypes that contain P1A [8].
Manufacturer	GlaxoSmithKline Inc.	Merck Canada Inc.



Authorized Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First dose can be administered as early as 6 weeks of age. • Interval of at least 4 weeks between doses. • Administration of the 2 doses should be completed prior to 25 weeks of age. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First dose can be administered as early as 6 weeks of age. • Subsequent doses should be administered at an interval of 4 to 10 weeks between doses. • Completion of third dose by 32 weeks of age.
Dose	1.5 mL	2 mL
Route	Oral	Oral
Number of Doses in Series	2 doses	3 doses
Schedule	Dose 1: 2 months of age Dose 2: 4 months of age	Dose 1: 2 months of age Dose 2: 4 months of age Dose 3: 6 months of age

Recommended and Minimum Ages and Intervals for Rotarix® (Rot-1)				
Vaccine and dose number	Recommended age for this dose	Minimum age for this dose	Recommended interval to next dose	Minimum interval to next dose
Rot-1 (Rotarix®) Dose #1^a	2 months	6 weeks	2 months	4 weeks
Rot-1 (Rotarix®) Dose #2^b	4 months	10 weeks ^c	----	----

^a First dose should be administered by < 15 weeks of age as safety of providing the first dose of RV vaccine in older infants is not known.

^b All doses must be completed by < 25 weeks of age.

^c The second dose at 10 weeks only applies if the first dose was given at 6 weeks.

Recommended and Minimum Ages and Intervals for RotaTeq® (Rot-5)				
Vaccine and dose number	Recommended age for this dose	Minimum age for this dose	Recommended interval to next dose	Minimum interval to next dose
Rot-5 (RotaTeq®) Dose #1^a	2 months	6 weeks	2 months	4 weeks
Rot-5 (RotaTeq®) Dose #2^b	4 months	10 weeks ^c	2 months	4 weeks
Rot-5 (RotaTeq®) Dose #3	6 months	14 weeks ^d	----	----

^a First dose should be administered by < 15 weeks of age as safety of providing the first dose of RV vaccine in older infants is not known.

^b All doses must be completed by ≤ 32 weeks of age.

^c The second dose at 10 weeks only applies if the first dose was given at 6 weeks.

^dThe third dose at 14 weeks only applies if the second dose was given at 10 weeks and the first dose was given at 6 weeks.

Scenarios to Complete Rotavirus Series

Scenario	Response
1 or 2 doses of RotaTeq® was given and RotaTeq® is available	Complete the 3-dose vaccine series with RotaTeq® at an interval of 4 to 10 weeks between each dose. All doses should be administered by 32 weeks of age.
1 dose of RotaTeq® was given and RotaTeq® is not available	Complete series with 2 doses of Rotarix® at an interval of 4 weeks between doses. Two doses should be completed by < 25 weeks of age.
2 doses of RotaTeq® was given and RotaTeq® is not available	Complete series with 1 dose of Rotarix® by < 25 weeks of age.
If the product is unknown for previous dose(s)	Complete series with 2 doses of Rotarix® vaccine. Note: If any dose in the series was RotaTeq®, a total of 3 doses of rotavirus vaccine should be administered. All doses are required to be administered by < 25 weeks of age.

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/HPPortal. We will do our best to accommodate requests, and once our inventory of RotaTeq® has been depleted, we will fill orders with Rotarix®.

For immunization program information, support materials and forms refer to our website www.smdhu.org/pcportal or call the Immunization program, Monday thru Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at 705-721-7520 or toll free 1-877-721-7520 ext. 8806.