



TIP SHEET 29 • SUMMER 2011

# We've got NEWS!

Announcing Changes to the Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule

# More protection for your patients!

## Improved Vaccine Coverage for Ontario Residents

In May, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care announced changes to the Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule for Ontario. Set to launch in August 2011, two new vaccines will be offered for children, and two others will become more widely available.

The following vaccines will be added to the schedule:

- MMRV, a combination vaccine that protects against measles, mumps, rubella and varicella
- Rotavirus vaccine (oral)

Enhanced protection against chickenpox will be achieved by providing a second dose of varicella vaccine for children. Adults aged 19 to 64 will receive a one-time dose of pertussis vaccine.

*Stay tuned for more details to follow*



## Did you know?

- **Fridge inspections go hightech!** Do not be surprised if the nurse arrives for your annual vaccine inspection carrying a laptop. Our inspection reports will soon be done electronically, saving trees, and wear and tear on nurses.
- **Watch your mailbox.** The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care plans to send the new vaccine information to all doctors during the week of July 25, 2011. Two packages will be sent. The first package will contain information about the new publicly funded vaccines, and the second one will provide the new Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule for Ontario.

## Introducing: The New Publicly Funded Vaccines

### Priorix-Tetra™, made by GlaxoSmithKline

- Two doses provide protection against measles, mumps, rubella and varicella
- 0.5 ml dose given SC or IM to eligible children aged four to six years
- Interval between doses should preferably be six weeks, but should not be less than four weeks

### Boostrix®, made by GlaxoSmithKline

- One dose provides booster protection against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis
- 0.5 ml dose given by deep IM to eligible people aged 19 to 64 years
- Not intended for primary immunization
- Will be temporarily distributed instead of Adacel® during July and August

### Rotarix™, made by GlaxoSmithKline

- Two doses provide protection against gastroenteritis caused by rotavirus types G1P[8], G2P[4], G3P[8], G4P[8], and G9P[8]
- 1.5 ml dose given orally to infants
- May be given from six weeks of age, with a minimum interval of four weeks between doses

With the introduction of these new vaccines, physicians are reminded to be extra vigilant in watching for Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFIs). AEFI forms are available on the Public Health Agency of Canada's website: [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/im/pdf/hc4229e.pdf](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/im/pdf/hc4229e.pdf).

**Please fax completed forms to York Region Community and Health Services at 905-895-6066.**

## To Bill or Not to Bill: Clarifying TB Skin Testing

Last year, York Region Community and Health Services (YRC&HS) sent over 33,000 doses of Tubersol® to York Region physicians to use in administering TB skin tests to patients. However, requests for TB skin testing and reporting can be confusing. Here are some tips for determining who pays for what:

- If TB testing and reporting are requested by YRC&HS, the patient must not pay for this service, and the vaccine is publicly funded
- If TB testing and reporting are requested by the patient for admission to a day care centre, a school or pre-school program, community college, university or other educational institution or program, the testing is insured and the vaccine is provided, but the reporting may be billed
- If TB testing is requested solely for employment reasons, neither the testing nor reporting are insured, and publicly funded vaccine should not be used

When uninsured testing is performed, the vaccine should be either:

- Acquired by the physician from the manufacturer and sold to the patient, or
- Acquired by the patient from a pharmacy, via a prescription from the physician

(Reference: Physician's Guide to Third Party and Other Uninsured Services, January 2011 Edition, p. 17)

## Questions?

Call York Region Community and Health Services at:

**1-877-794-1880  
and press 9**

to speak with a vaccine nurse.

**TTY: 1-866-252-9933**

**Reminder:** Vaccine orders are released only to offices using coolers and ice packs for transport.