**Immunisation Update for GPs and Practice Nurses**

**Overview of ‘Changeover from RotaTeq to Rotarix’ summarised**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccination History</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No previous dose of rotavirus vaccine. Presents for dose 1</td>
<td>Not older than 14 weeks 6 days (&lt;15 wks)</td>
<td>Give Rotarix dose 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 previous dose of RotaTeq. Presents for dose 2</td>
<td>RotaTeq available, meets age and dose interval criteria</td>
<td>Give dose 2 RotaTeq</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Always ensure there is a minimum spacing of one month between doses of rotavirus vaccine</strong></td>
<td>RotaTeq not available, not older than 24 weeks 6 days (&lt;25 wks)</td>
<td>Give Rotarix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Use the Rotavirus or RotaTeq wheel</strong></td>
<td>RotaTeq not available, older than 24 weeks 6 days (&gt;25 wks)</td>
<td>Too old, no further rotavirus vaccination available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 previous doses RotaTeq. Presents for dose 3</td>
<td>RotaTeq available, meets age and dose interval criteria</td>
<td>Give dose 3 RotaTeq</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rotarix
- A 2-dose course, scheduled at 2 & 4 months
- Use Rotarix for all babies starting vaccination once you receive your supply
- Cut off for dose 1 is 14 weeks and 6 days (<15 weeks)
- Cut off for dose 2 is 24 weeks and 6 days (<25 weeks)
- Use the Rotarix Wheel whenever giving Rotarix
- Some infants may receive mixed brands to complete their course, refer to the table above

RotaTeq
- A 3-dose course but during the changeover some babies may only receive 2 doses or may receive mixed brands to complete the course. Refer to table above
- Save the RotaTeq stock for babies who have started on RotaTeq and for completing the course where possible
- Cut off for dose 1 is 12 weeks and 6 days (<13 weeks)
- Cut off for the last dose is 32 weeks and 6 days (<33 weeks)
- Use the RotaTeq Wheel whenever giving RotaTeq

You will receive further information about this program from QLD Immunisation Program in the near future.

For more detailed information refer to the ATAGI document ‘Clinical advice to support the introduction of Rotarix to replace RotaTeq’ and other resources are available from PHN website [www.ourphn.org.au](http://www.ourphn.org.au/) or contact the Sunshine Coast Public Health Unit.

**Shortage of Hepatitis B vaccine**
- Anticipated shortage into 2018
- Hepatitis B vaccine will be available for eligible funded groups. QIP is closely monitoring orders placed.

**The following vaccination options are available and are suitable for Health Care Workers:**
- <20 years give 3 doses of hepatitis B (paediatric vaccine)
- ≥20 years give Twinrix (adult) combination hep A/B vaccine
- H-B-VAXII (paediatric) Seqirus PI states that two doses of 5µg paediatric formulation may be administered as an alternative for one dose of 10µg adult formulation.

**New immunisation Resources** (on PHN website)
- National Immunisation Program QLD schedule 1 July 2017 (included in this fax)

**Zostavax: Patients have been receiving double doses**
Extra doses of Zostavax have been given in error. Over 50% of errors have occurred at the practice where dose 1 was received. It is **important** that patients do not receive extra doses of this potent live vaccine.

Prevent errors by routinely CHECKING PRIOR to giving any dose of Zostavax:
1. AIR database for vaccination record of prior dose
2. Your own practice records
Relying on your own memory or the memory of your patient results in errors.

**Other expected changes from 1 July 2017**
- Expansion of the funded catch-up program for those aged 10 to 19 years at time of vaccination & high risk groups
- Further Information will be provided when available.

**Australian Immunisation Program (AIR) update:** You will notice the encounter screen on AIR has been updated. There are many new functions vaccine service providers can perform such as correcting your own errors and notifying of natural immunity and medical exemption directly on to the AIR database. QIP will be producing YouTube training session to assist you and Jenny Medley, Data Officer, Sunshine Coast Public Health unit will be offering an evening education session on 21 June. Contact PHN for details and assistance with AIR database issues.

13 June 2017