

Memorandum

To: Nova Scotia Physicians

From: Dr. Frank Atherton, Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health

Date: Oct 30, 2013

Re: Policy update: Eligible Vaccines for High Risk Groups

In light of updated recommendations from the [Canadian Immunization Guide](#) the NS Policy regarding the provision of publicly funded vaccines to those at high risk of acquiring vaccine preventable diseases has been reviewed and updated. Please refer to the “High Risk Policy” in the [NS Immunization Manual](#).

As of October 15, 2013 the following vaccines will be publicly funded for individuals with the identified high risk conditions:

Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine:

- **Adults undergoing hematopoietic stem cell transplants (HSCT)** (3 doses);
- **Adults with HIV and other immunocompromised persons**, including those with asplenia, sickle cell disease or other hemoglobinopathies, congenital immunodeficiencies, immunosuppressive therapies, malignant neoplasms including leukemia and lymphoma, and solid organ or islet cell transplant candidates or recipients (one dose)

Meningococcal quadrivalent conjugate:

- **Adults and children undergoing HSCT** (3 doses)

There is a new Modifier for Meningococcal Quadrivalent vaccine in the July/13 MSI Physicians Bulletin

DTaP-IPV-Hib (Pediacef)

- **Adults and children undergoing HSCT** (4 doses) Recommendation for Pediacef use in those age 7 and older is based upon expert opinion (NS Infectious Disease Expert Group) and is not listed among the indications in the product monograph

The new high risk policy titled, “Publicly Funded Vaccine Eligibility for Individuals Medically at High Risk of Acquiring Vaccine Preventable Diseases” now combines the former separate policies for adults and children.

Please find attached the following documents:

1. “Adult Pneumococcal Vaccination Guide for Health Care Professionals”, which includes new eligibility criteria for adult pneumococcal conjugate vaccine
2. Revised “Adult Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplants: Recommended Vaccinations” schedule

For further information please refer to the [NS Immunization Manual](#) or contact your local [Public Health](#) office if you have questions about the changes in the eligibility criteria for high risk groups.

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