



Durham Region Health Department FAX about...

For Health Care Professionals



RotaTeq® to Rotarix®

Starting **August 2021**, the Ontario publicly funded rotavirus immunization program will transition from the **three dose** RotaTeq® (Rot-5) vaccine to the **two dose** Rotarix® (Rot-1) vaccine. RotaTeq® vaccine supplies will continue to be available to complete an infant series however may not be available beyond Fall 2021. Rotarix® is a 2-dose vaccine series administered orally and is indicated for active immunization. All infants in Ontario are eligible to receive the rotavirus vaccine as per the Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario.

Infants born on or after June 1, 2021 should start their rotavirus vaccine series with the Rotarix® vaccine. This infant cohort will receive their first dose of Rotarix® in August 2021 at 2 months of age. **Infants born before June 1, 2021** and started their series with RotaTeq® should complete their rotavirus immunization series with RotaTeq® vaccine.

NOTE: If RotaTeq® was the vaccine used to start the immunization series, and the same vaccine product is not available, complete the series with Rotarix® (see table below for vaccine and schedule). 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 24 weeks of age.

| Recommended Schedule if RotaTeq® is unavailable | | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Schedule | (2, 4, 6 months) | (2, 4, 6 months) | (2, 4, 6 months) |
| Dose 1* | Rot-5** | Rot-5 | Unknown Product |
| Dose 2 | Rot-1 | Rot-5 | Rot-1 |
| Dose 3 | Rot-1 | Rot-1 | Rot-1 |
| Complete by: 24 weeks of age | | | |

*To be given <15 weeks of age

**Infants born BEFORE June 01, 2021 who started with Rot-5 should complete their series with the same product, whenever possible

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends either vaccine, without a preferential recommendation for one over the other. Infants should start and complete their series with the same product, whenever possible. Both Rotarix® and RotaTeq® products can be given together with other routine infant vaccines administered at the ages these products are given, regardless of the route of administration of the other vaccine. Infants should receive all doses in the vaccine series (i.e., 2 doses for Rotarix® and 3 doses for RotaTeq®) to achieve optimal protection against rotavirus.

Rotarix® (Rot-1) is available to order through the Monthly Order Form available at www.durham.ca/hcp. Health Care Providers are to continue to implement appropriate Vaccine Storage and Handling practices when storing publicly funded vaccine.

905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | durham.ca/health

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.



For more information regarding Rotavirus and vaccines refer to:

Product Monograph for Rotarix®

<http://ca.gsk.com/en-ca/products/rotarix/>

Product Monograph for RotaTeq®

https://www.merck.ca/static/pdf/ROTATEQ-PM_E.pdf

Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario

https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization/docs/Publicly_Funded_ImmunizationSchedule.pdf

Canadian Immunization Guide

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/canadian-immunization-guide.html>

If you have any questions, please contact the Durham Region Health Department Vaccine Storage and Handling Line 905-668-7711 ext. 3063.

Thank you for your continued support to protect Durham Region residents from vaccine preventable diseases.

July 23, 2021

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