	WRHA Immunization Program Clinical Practice Guidelines	

Winnipeg Regional Health Authority / **Office régional de la santé de Winnipeg**
Caring for Health / À l'écoute de notre santé

TITLE: General Considerations Prior to Immunization- Precautions and Contraindications	CODE

APPROVED BY:

Sept 2015   PAGE

Program	Date	Program	Date
☑ Population and Public Health	Oct.6,2010	☐ Primary Care	
☐ Occupational Health		☐ Home Care	
☐ Infection Prevention and Control		☐ Personal Care Home	
☐ Community Health Services Leadership Team		☐ Pharmacy	

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 To be aware of and counsel individuals regarding the risks and benefits of receiving immunizations especially with certain health conditions or in certain situations.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

2.1 Immunization Provider: A health care professional who is registered or licensed to provide health care under an Act of the Legislature and who is authorized under that Act to administer vaccines [1] Eg. registered nurse (R.N.), physician, licensed practical nurse (L.P.N.) registered psychiatric nurse (R.P.N.), pharmacists, health care provider students under the supervision of a clinical instructor or physician.

2.2 Individual: Patients, residents, clients, tenants or staff (including volunteers).

2.3 Contraindication: is a situation in which a drug, such as a vaccine, should not be used because the risk outweighs any potential therapeutic benefit.1

Refer to the current Canadian Immunization Guide for more details. Table 1
http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/cig-gci/p02-02-eng.php#contraindications

2.4 Precaution: is a condition that may increase the chance of an adverse reaction following an immunization or that may compromise the ability of the vaccine to produce immunity. In general, vaccines are deferred when a precaution exists. However, there may be circumstances when the benefits of giving the vaccine outweigh the potential harm, or when reduced vaccine immunogenicity still results in significant benefit to a susceptible, immunocompromised host[2].

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[1] Manitoba Health, Communicable Disease Control, Immunization Manual Protocol, Informed Consent Protocol

[2] Canadian Immunization Guide, Evergreen version

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3.0 SCOPE & GOAL

3.1 The immunization provider must be aware and screen for certain medical conditions or situations where immunization may be a contraindication or a precaution.

4.0 PROCEDURE

4.1 All individuals shall be screened for contraindications and precautions to the vaccine by using the current Canadian Immunization Guide and the manufacturer's product monograph before receiving any vaccine dose.

4.2 Checklists, fact sheets, and routine screening questions can be used to facilitate the assessment of contraindications and precautions.

4.3 The immunization provider should refer to the current Canadian Immunization Guide and the product monograph to screen for relevant factors for the specific vaccine such as:

4.3.1 History of anaphylactic reaction to any substance contained in the vaccine.

4.3.2 Current state of health, including presence of a health condition that is an indication or contraindication/precaution for specific vaccines. This should include screening for immunosuppression from a health condition or medication.

4.3.3 Pregnancy, lactation, or planning a pregnancy in the next month (may be either an indication for the vaccine or a precaution/contraindication to the vaccine).

4.3.4 Adverse events previously experienced following receipt of any vaccine. This includes a history of Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS) with onset within 6 weeks of a previous immunization.

4.3.5 History of receipt of blood transfusion or blood product in the past year (if administering a live vaccine).

4.3.6 Receipt of a live vaccine in previous 4 weeks (if administering a live vaccine) (6 weeks if administering MMRV).

4.3.7 Past health history.

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4.3.8 Risks of contracting disease and its sequelae if not immunized.

4.3.9 Other factors identified in the Canadian Immunization Guide and/or product monograph under contraindications and precautions.

4.4   The immunization provider shall consult with a medical consultant (e.g. the individual's primary care provider, program medical director, or a medical officer of health) if further clarification is required to determine if there is a contraindication or precaution to a specific vaccine.

4.4.1 For Population Public Health: Public Health Nurses will consult with the Communicable Disease (CD) coordinator if there are any questions regarding a contraindication or precaution to a specific vaccine. The CD coordinator will consult with the Medical Officer of Health as required.

5.0   **VALIDATION**

5.1   **Canadian Immunization Guide** Evergreen version

6.0   **RECOMMENDED READING**