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**TO:** IMMUNIZATION PROVIDERS

**FROM:** Bridget Fontaine  
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**SUBJECT:** NHIP Now Offers Two Rotavirus Products: RotaTeq<sup>®</sup> and Rotarix<sup>®</sup>

The New Hampshire Immunization Program (NHIP) is now offering RotaTeq<sup>®</sup>(RV5) and Rotarix<sup>®</sup>(RV1). A fact sheet comparing both products is available at our website: [www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/IMMUNIZATION/default.htm](http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/IMMUNIZATION/default.htm). Additional information, such as a 5 minute video about Rotarix<sup>®</sup> (RV1), will also be available. Please review the information carefully and discuss both rotavirus vaccines with your practice providers and clinical staff. Then decide if you will provide Rotarix<sup>®</sup>(RV1) or RotaTeq<sup>®</sup>(RV5) to your patients.

**Please note: you have a choice of rotvirus vaccine**

To select your practice's choice of RotaTeq<sup>®</sup> (RV5) and Rotarix<sup>®</sup> (RV1) fill out the NHIP vaccine order sheet and cross out the rotavirus vaccine that you **do not** want and write in the number of doses your practice requires next to the vaccine you do want.

If you have any questions please call the NH Immunization Program at 1-800-852-3345 ext. 4482 or 603-271-4482 and ask for a Public Health Nurse. Or participate in our monthly Conference Call the second Wednesday of the month from 12:15 to 1 PM (change in time). The call in number is: 1-866-304-8625. Conference code number: 6032714477.

**PLEASE FORWARD TO**  
**ALL APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

**NOTICE:**

You have received this message based upon the information contained within the Swift Information System (SIS) notification database. If you have a different or additional e-mail or fax address that you would like us to use please notify us as soon as possible by e-mail at [IMMUNIZATION@DHHS.STATE.NH.US](mailto:IMMUNIZATION@DHHS.STATE.NH.US), for more information go to <http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/IMMUNIZATION/>

Or check out our **conference call the second Wednesday of every month, 12:15 – 1:00pm.**

Call in number: 1-866-304-8625. Conference code number: 6032714477

# Rotavirus Fact Sheet for Clinical Staff with comparison of Rotarix<sup>®</sup> (RV1) and RotaTeq<sup>®</sup> (RV5)

## Dosing:

- Rotarix<sup>®</sup> RV1 is a **2 dose** 1mL vaccine series administered orally.
- RotaTeq<sup>®</sup> RV5 is a **3 dose** 2mL vaccine series administered orally.
- Both vaccines are recommended for infants 6 weeks of age up through 8 months 0 days.

## Composition:

- Rotarix<sup>®</sup> is used for the prevention of rotavirus gastroenteritis caused by G1 and non-G1 types G3, G4, and G9.
- RotaTeq<sup>®</sup> is used for the prevention of rotavirus gastroenteritis caused by G1, G2, G3, and G4.
- ACIP does not express a preference for RV1 or RV5 but it is recommended that the vaccine series be completed with the same product whenever possible.

## Administration:

- Rotarix<sup>®</sup> is recommended to be administered orally in a **2 dose** series with doses given at ages 2 and 4 months.
- RotaTeq<sup>®</sup> is recommended to be administered orally in a **3 dose** series with doses given at 2, 4 and 6 months.
- The first dose of either rotavirus vaccine should be administered from age 6 weeks through age 14 weeks 6 days (the maximum age for the first dose is 14 weeks 6 days). Vaccination should not be initiated for infants of age 15 weeks 0 days or older.
- The minimum interval between doses of rotavirus vaccine is 4 weeks. All doses should be administered by age 8 months 0 days.

## Interchangability: RotaTeq<sup>®</sup> and Rotarix<sup>®</sup> are interchangeable.

- ACIP recommends that the rotavirus vaccine series be completed with the same product whenever possible. However, vaccination should not be deferred if the product used for previous doses is not available or is unknown. In this situation, the provider should continue or complete the series with the product available.
- If any dose in the series was RotaTeq<sup>®</sup> (RV5) or the product is unknown for any dose in the series, a total of three doses of rotavirus vaccine should be given.

**Recommendations:** ACIP recommends the routine immunization of either rotavirus vaccine for all infants who have no contraindications. Administer simultaneously with all other indicated vaccines. Breastfed infants should be vaccinated on usual schedule. Vaccinate infants who have recovered from a documented rotavirus infection. Do not repeat the dose if infant spits out or regurgitates a dose of vaccine; administer remaining doses on schedule.

**Contraindications:** Rotavirus vaccine should not be administered to infants who have a severe allergic reaction (e.g. anaphylaxis) after a previous dose of either rotavirus vaccine or to a vaccine component. History of uncorrected congenital malformation of the gastrointestinal track that would predispose the infant to intussusceptions is a recommended contraindication.

**Precautions:** Review immunization history for hypersensitivity and other reactions to any component of Rotarix<sup>®</sup> or RotaTeq<sup>®</sup>. Administration of rotavirus vaccine should be delayed in infants suffering from acute diarrhea or vomiting. The Rotarix<sup>®</sup> applicator tube contains latex rubber. The RotaTeq<sup>®</sup> applicator pouch is latex-free.

**Packaging:**

- Rotarix<sup>®</sup> is packaged as a vial of lyophilized vaccine, a prefilled oral applicator of liquid (1mL) with a plunger stopper, and a transfer adapter for reconstitution. Rotarix<sup>®</sup> is packaged in a box containing 10 doses.
- RotaTeq<sup>®</sup> is packaged in a single dose applicator pouch. It is supplied as a single pouch or as a box of ten pouches.

**Reconstitution:**

- RotaTeq<sup>®</sup> does not require reconstitution. It is a clear pale yellow liquid that may have a pink tint.
- Rotarix<sup>®</sup> should be reconstituted using the following directions:
  1. Remove plastic cover from vial of lyophilized vaccine and connect transfer adapter onto vial by pushing it downwards until it is in place.
  2. Shake the oral applicator containing the liquid diluent vigorously. The shaken suspension will appear as a turbid liquid with a slow settling white deposit.
  3. Remove the protective tip cap from the oral applicator and connect the oral applicator into the transfer adapter by pushing it firmly on the device.
  4. Transfer the entire contents of the applicator into the vial of lyophilized vaccine.
  5. With the oral applicator still attached, shake the vial and withdraw the entire mixture into the oral applicator.
  6. Rotarix<sup>®</sup> should be administered within 24 hours of reconstitution. Reconstituted vaccine may be stored in the refrigerator or at room temperature 25°C (77°F).
  7. The infant should be seated in a reclining position. Administer orally the entire content of the applicator (on the inside of the cheek).
  8. A video showing reconstitution procedures can be found at:  
<http://www.rotarix.com/oral-administration-video.html>

**Storage:** RotaTeq<sup>®</sup> and Rotarix<sup>®</sup> should be stored at 2°-8° C (36°-46° F). Lyophilized Rotarix<sup>®</sup> should be refrigerated. The Rotarix<sup>®</sup> diluent may be stored at room temperature 25°C (77°F). RotaTeq<sup>®</sup> and Rotarix<sup>®</sup> need to be protected from light and should never be frozen.

**Packaging Insert:**

- The Rotarix<sup>®</sup> package insert is available at:  
<http://www.fda.gov/cber/label/rotarixLB.pdf>
- The RotaTeq<sup>®</sup> package insert is available at:  
<http://www.rotateq.com/prescribing-information-for-rotateq.html>

**Sources and Additional Information:**

2006 MMWR ACIP Recommendations for the Prevention of Rotavirus Gastroenteritis Among Infants and Children are available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5512a1.htm>

ACIP Provisional Recommendations for the Prevention of Rotavirus Gastroenteritis Among Infants and Children are available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/provisional/downloads/roto-7-1-08-508.pdf>