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Health Products Regulation Group
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Dear Healthcare Professional

GUIDELINES ON ROTAVIRUS VACCINATION SCHEDULE & DOSING REGIME

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) has recently updated healthcare professionals on the findings of DNA fragment of porcine circovirus 1 (PCV-1) in the rotavirus vaccine, Rotarix®, by an independent research team from the University of California, San Francisco. In its advisory, HSA has advised healthcare professionals to consider temporarily deferring rotavirus vaccination using Rotarix® until more information is made available in about 6 weeks' time. While the review of the significance of this new finding is ongoing, HSA understands that healthcare professionals may need advice on how to handle the situation on existing patients who have been vaccinated with Rotarix®.

2 In consultation with the Expert Committee for Immunisation (ECI) of the Ministry of Health, HSA has reviewed the available guidelines on the prevention of rotavirus gastroenteritis issued by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) in the US. Healthcare professionals may wish to refer to these guidelines on the management of their patients who have received the first dose of Rotarix®.

3 The recommendations from ACIP on the use of an alternative vaccine are as follows:

- (i) For patients switching to RotaTeq® after receiving one dose of Rotarix®, they should receive 2 doses of RotaTeq®, in order to complete a total of 3 doses of rotavirus vaccine.
- (ii) The latest recommended time to receive RotaTeq® for this switch would be one dose before 28 weeks, followed by the second dose before 32 weeks of age.
- (iii) The minimum interval between each dose of rotavirus vaccine is 4 weeks.

4 For healthcare professionals who wish to temporarily defer immunisation in patients who have received their first dose of Rotarix®, the maximum age for the second dose of Rotarix® is 24 weeks.

5 HSA will continue to evaluate new data as soon as it becomes available and keep healthcare professionals updated on this issue. Please contact Dr Yvonne Koh at Tel: 6866 3550 or email: yvonne_koh@hsa.gov.sg should you have any queries on the above information.

Yours sincerely



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