
Standing Orders for Administering Rotavirus Vaccine to Infants

Purpose: To reduce morbidity and mortality from rotavirus disease by vaccinating all infants who meet the criteria established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

Policy: Under these standing orders, eligible nurses and other healthcare professionals (e.g., pharmacists), where allowed by state law, may vaccinate infants who meet the criteria below.

Procedure

1. Identify infants ages 6 weeks through 7 months (not for 8 months or older) who have not completed a rotavirus (RV) vaccination series.
2. Screen all patients for contraindications and precautions to rotavirus vaccine:
 - a. **Contraindications:**
 - History of a serious allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose of RV vaccine or to an RV vaccine component (Note: latex rubber is contained in the Rotarix oral applicator). For information on vaccine components, refer to the manufacturers’ package insert (www.immunize.org/packageinserts) or go to www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/appendices/B/excipient-table-2.pdf.
 - Diagnosis of severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID)
 - History of intussusception
 - b. **Precautions:**
 - Altered immunocompetence
 - Chronic gastrointestinal disease
 - Spina bifida or bladder exstrophy
 - Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever
3. Provide all patients (parent/legal representative) with a copy of the most current federal Vaccine Information Statement (VIS). You must document, in the patient’s medical record or office log, the publication date of the VIS and the date it was given to the patient (parent/legal representative). Provide non-English speaking patients with a copy of the VIS in their native language, if available; these can be found at www.immunize.org/vis.
4. Provide routine vaccination with Rotarix at ages 2 and 4 months OR provide routine vaccination with RotaTeq at ages 2, 4, and 6 months. Administer the full dose (1 mL for Rotarix; 2 mL for RotaTeq) of vaccine by administering the entire contents of the dosing applicator of the liquid vaccine into the infant’s mouth toward the inner cheek until empty. Note that Rotarix needs to be reconstituted before administration; RotaTeq does not.
5. For infants who have not received RV vaccine by age 2 months, give the first dose at the earliest opportunity but no later than age 14 weeks 6 days. Then schedule subsequent doses by observing minimum intervals of 4 weeks between the remaining one (if Rotarix) or two (if RotaTeq) dose(s) such that the final dose can be administered by age 8 months 0 days. Do not administer any RV vaccine beyond the age of 8 months 0 days.
6. Document each patient’s vaccine administration information and follow up in the following places:
 - a. **Medical chart:** Record the date the vaccine was administered, the manufacturer and lot number, the vaccination site and route, and the name and title of the person administering the vaccine. If vaccine was not given, record the reason(s) for non-receipt of the vaccine (e.g., medical contraindication, patient refusal).
 - b. **Personal immunization record card:** Record the date of vaccination and the name/location of the administering clinic.
7. Be prepared for management of a medical emergency related to the administration of vaccine by having a written emergency medical protocol available, as well as equipment and medications.
8. Report all adverse reactions to RV vaccine to the federal Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) at www.vaers.hhs.gov or (800) 822-7967. VAERS report forms are available at www.vaers.hhs.gov.