

Measles-Mumps-Rubella-Varicella (MMRV) Vaccine Program

Questions and Answers for Health Care Providers

This fact sheet provides basic information only. It is not intended to provide or take the place of medical advice, diagnosis or treatment.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care ("the ministry") is introducing a new measles, mumps, rubella, varicella (MMRV) vaccine to the *Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario* to protect children against measles, mumps, rubella and varicella infection.

About the MMRV vaccine (Priorix-Tetra™):

Q1: What does the MMRV vaccine protect against?

A1: The new combination MMRV vaccine, approved for use in Canada in December 2007, is Priorix-Tetra™. The vaccine is indicated for active immunization against measles, mumps, rubella and varicella diseases. These are common childhood illnesses that can lead to serious complications such as bacterial skin infections, encephalitis, mumps meningitis and congenital rubella syndrome.

Q2: What is the age indication for the Priorix-Tetra™ vaccine?

A2: The Priorix-Tetra™ vaccine was approved by Health Canada for children from nine months to six years of age. Efficacy has not been evaluated in children older than six years of age. However, based on previous immunogenic and safety experience with the separate component vaccines (i.e., Priorix® and Varilix®), this vaccine can be used in children up to 12 years of age.

In Ontario, Priorix-Tetra™ is currently publicly funded for children four through to 11 years of age as per the eligibility criteria outlined in Attachment B - **Table 1: ROUTINE MMR, Varicella and MMRV Immunization.**

Q3: Where do I find more information about the vaccine such as common side effects, contraindications, storage recommendations and where to inject the vaccine?

A3: Refer to the vaccine product monograph for Priorix-Tetra™ available at http://www.gsk.ca/english/docs-pdf/Priorix_tetra_2010.pdf

Q4: How should Priorix-Tetra™ be administered?

A4: Priorix-Tetra™ can be administered with other vaccines but at different injection sites as per the *Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario*.

About the publicly funded program:

Q5: Why has the province introduced the MMRV as a second dose for the MMR and varicella vaccines?

A5: In August 2011, the second dose of the MMR vaccine will be replaced with the combination MMRV vaccine. However, the MMR vaccine will continue to be used for the first dose at 12 months of age as well as for those individuals who are not eligible to receive MMRV or require the MMR vaccine for medical or travel related reasons. This combined MMRV vaccine will reduce the number