



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health – Women’s & Children’s Health Section
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Michael F. Easley, Governor

Dempsey Benton, Secretary

July 1, 2008

Memorandum

TO: Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Centers

FROM: Beth Rowe-West, RN, BSN, Head,
Immunization Branch

Evelyn Foust, CPM, MPH, Head
Communicable Disease Branch

RE: State Supplied Combination Hepatitis A & B Vaccine for High Risk Populations using Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) and Rural Health Centers (RHC)

The purpose of this memo is to announce the availability of state supplied hepatitis A and B combination vaccine to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) and Rural Health Centers (RHC) currently enrolled in the UCVDP. Twinrix[®], manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline, is a hepatitis A and hepatitis B combination vaccine for use for persons ≥ 18 years of age and older. It is administered in a three dose series. **The Immunization Branch is supplying this vaccine only for certain high risk populations outlined below. Though we encourage any FQHC or RHC enrolled in UCVDP to carry this vaccine and vaccinate any eligible adults, the duration of this vaccine’s availability is contingent on continued funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).**

Eligibility

State supplied hepatitis A and B combination vaccine is available only for FQHC, RHC and local health department use. Individuals eligible for state supplied Twinrix[®] vaccine are defined as those ≥ 18 years of age who are served by your staff for any service **and** have any of the following risk factors:

- Men who have sex with men,
- IV drug users,
- Persons with multiple sex partners,
- Any person who has been incarcerated,
- Persons who are hepatitis C or HIV positive,
- Persons with chronic liver disease, including persons with chronic HBV/HCV infection who have evidence of chronic liver disease,
- Persons seeking treatment for a STD, or
- Males and females receiving family planning services who are not in a mutually monogamous relationship.

Twinrix[®] should **not** be used for individuals that have previously received a complete hepatitis B or hepatitis A vaccination series.



Ordering and Accountability

Coordinate state supplied Twinrix[®] vaccine orders with vaccine orders placed by your agency's childhood immunization nurse. All vaccines should be ordered at the same time to avoid over or under ordering.

One hundred percent of state-supplied Twinrix[®] doses administered must be documented and reported to the Immunization Branch. For FQHCs and RHCs using the North Carolina Immunization Registry (NCIR), the vaccine will be added directly into your inventory upon acceptance of the order and must be recorded on patient records. FQHCs or RHCs not using the NCIR must document doses administered on a Vaccines Administered Log (VAL) by marking the appropriate dose of hepatitis A and hepatitis B and writing "Twinrix" in the Notes section.

Compatibility with Other Hepatitis A or Hepatitis B Vaccines

If a patient has already begun a hepatitis A or B series with single-antigen vaccine, it is possible to complete that series with Twinrix[®]. Because the hepatitis B component of Twinrix[®] is equivalent to a standard adult dose of hepatitis B vaccine, the schedule is the same whether Twinrix[®] or single-antigen hepatitis B vaccine is used. A person who begins the hepatitis A series with a dose of single-antigen hepatitis A vaccine may complete the series with two doses of Twinrix[®].

If you have questions, please call the Immunization Branch Help Desk at 1-877-873-6247 or your Regional Immunization Nurse Consultant.

CC:	SMT Maelyn Powell	Regional Immunization Staff Ann Nance	Central Office Staff Vaccine Manufacturers	Steve Shore	Peter Graber
	Joy Reed	Terri Pennington			