NWT Clinical Practice Information Notice

Upon receipt, please file this notice in
Section C, Clinical Practice Information Binder for future reference.

The following clinical practice has been approved for use in the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services system, and has been distributed to:

X	Hospitals	**X**	Community Health Centres		Homecare		LTC	X	Pharmacists
X	Doctor's Offices		Social Services Offices	**X**	Public Health Units		Please list other(s):		

The information contained in this document is a Departmental:

X	Policy	**X**	Clinical Standard		Protocol		Procedure		Clinical Practice Guideline

Title: Standardization of Hepatitis B vaccine dose

Effective Date: March 8, 2016

Statement of approved Clinical Practice: When using the RECOMBIVAX HB® product to immunize infants and children aged 0-19 years of age against hepatitis B according to the NWT Immunization Schedule, the full 5 microgram (0.5 ml) dose of the pediatric formulation is to be used in lieu of the current recommendation of the 2.5 microgram (0.25 ml) dose in the Evergreen Canadian Immunization Guide and Canadian Product Monograph.

The two products licensed in Canada used to vaccinate infants and children against hepatitis B are ENGERIX®-B and RECOMBIVAX HB®. The product used in the NWT each year is determined through the Public Works and Services Canada bulk purchasing program and has changed back and forth between these two products over the last few years. While both products can be used interchangeably there is a different dose recommended in Canada compared to the USA for the RECOMBIVAX HB® product. The product used in Canada is produced and packaged in the USA and contains the USA recommendations for administration which is different from the Canadian recommendations. This leads to the potential for the following issues, including:

1. Increase potential for vaccine administration errors
2. Vaccine wastage
3. Potential to under-immunize infants born to hepatitis B positive mothers
4. Potential for infection and inadequate efficacy.

To protect patient safety, the Chief Public Health Officer directs those providing vaccine to administer the full 0.5 ml dose (5 microgram) to all infants and children from birth to 19 years of age when using the RECOMBIVAX HB® product. There is no change to the dose of the ENGERIX ®-B product.

An electronic copy of this notice is also available on the Department of Health and Social Services public website at: http://www.professionals.hss.gov.nt.ca/.

This clinical practice is approved. _____
March 8, 2016

Minister ☐ **Deputy Minister** ☐ **Chief Public Health Officer** ☑