A Quick Look at Using Rotavirus Vaccines: RV5 (RotaTeq®) and RV1 (ROTARIX®)

**Indications for Use and Schedule**

| Two rotavirus vaccines are licensed. Both are live, attenuated vaccines. |
|---|---|---|
| **Number of doses in series** | RV5 (RotaTeq®) | 3 |
| **Recommended ages for doses** | 2, 4, and 6 months |
| **Minimum age for first dose** | 6 weeks |
| **Maximum age for first dose** | 14 weeks, 6 days |
| **Minimum interval between doses** | 4 weeks |
| **Maximum age for last dose** | 8 months, 0 days |

- Complete the rotavirus series with the same product (RV5 or RV1) whenever possible
- Vaccination should not be deferred if the product used for previous doses is not available or unknown
- If any dose in the series was RV5 (RotaTeq) or the product is unknown for any dose in the series, a total of three doses should be given

**Contraindications**

- Previous anaphylactic reaction to a rotavirus vaccine or a component of the vaccine
- History of Severe Combined Immunodeficiency Disease (SCID)
- History of intussusception
- History of uncorrected congenital malformation of the gastrointestinal tract that predisposes the infant to intussusception (Rotarix)

**Precautions**

- Moderate to severe illness or acute, moderate to severe gastroenteritis or vomiting
- Pre-existing chronic gastrointestinal disease
- History of receiving a blood transfusion or blood product, including immunoglobulins, within 42 days
- Altered immunocompetence such as: blood dyscrasias, leukemia, on immunosuppressive therapy (including high-dose systemic corticosteroids), primary and acquired immunodeficiency states, including HIV/AIDS; cellular immune deficiencies and hypogammaglobulinemic and dysgammaglobulinemic states
- Moms who are HIV/AIDS positive and the infant’s HIV status is unknown

**Further Points**

- **Provider Information on Vaccine Safety:** (Refer to “VIS Provider Information” at [http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/rotavirus-hcp-info.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/rotavirus-hcp-info.pdf))
  - Both currently licensed rotavirus vaccines are associated with a small risk of intussusception; CDC continues to recommend that all U.S. infants (following the age & precaution/contraindication criteria) receive rotavirus vaccine. The benefits of either vaccine outweigh the small excess risk of intussusception. Parents should be made aware of the small risk of intussusception, the signs & symptoms of intussusception, and the need for prompt care if these develop.
  - At the time of or after discharge from the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) or nursery, if a pre-term infant’s chronological age meets the age requirements for RV vaccine (e.g., age 6 weeks-14 weeks, 6 days for dose 1), and the infant is clinically stable, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP) supports vaccination according to the same schedule and precautions as full-term infants.
  - Infants living with pregnant women should be vaccinated following routine recommendations.
  - Infants living in households with immunocompromised persons can be vaccinated; considered greater risk of contracting wild-type RV disease from unvaccinated infant than risk of vaccine virus-associated disease
  - Rotarix must be reconstituted using the applicator prefilled with diluent & transfer adapter supplied with the Rotavirus vaccine vial; RotaTeq vaccine is ready to use
  - Record the lot number and expiration date for Rotarix from the inside box that contains the vaccine vials (do not use the number from the outer box).
  - There is one combined Rotavirus Vaccine Information Statement (VIS). Use the copy that includes information about the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR). VISs with MCIR information are available at [www.michigan.gov/immunize](http://www.michigan.gov/immunize) or at your local health department.
  - Document as “RV1 (Rotarix)” or “RV5 (RotaTeq)” in MCIR; document as RV1 or RV5 on the vaccine administration record & immunization record card

Publicly purchased RV5 and RV1 can be administered to eligible children 6 weeks to 8 months of age through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program in private providers’ offices. Eligible children include those who are uninsured, underinsured, Medicaid eligible, Native American or Alaskan Natives. Contact your local health department for more information. For additional information, refer to CDC/ACIP Recommendations on Rotavirus Vaccines including supplemental MMWR publications on intussusception and contraindications at [http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs)