

March 31 2017

To: All Health Care Practitioners including Hospital Obstetrical & Pediatric Departments

Subject: Increase in dosage of Recombivax HB vaccine for infants and children

Dear colleagues:

The Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health would like to inform you of the change to the New Brunswick Routine Immunization Program pertaining to the dosage for Hepatitis B vaccine. This change aligns with the recent update in the Canadian Immunization Guide- <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/canadian-immunization-guide/updates.html>:

- The dosage of Recombivax HB® for infants (of HB-negative mothers) to children less than 11 years of age has been changed from **0.25mL to 0.5mL**.

As of **April 1st, 2017**, all New Brunswick infants and children less than 11 years of age who require the primary immunization series for Hepatitis B vaccine will receive the increase to 0.5ml for each dose of the 3 dose series.

At this time there is **no evidence** indicating that infants and children who have been immunized with the lower dosage of 0.25ml will require booster doses; therefore if the primary series of Hepatitis B has been initiated with the 0.25ml dose (1st and/or 2nd dose), the series should be completed by providing 0.5ml for the remaining dose/doses.

Sincerely,



Shelley Landsburg
Director, Communicable Disease Control Branch

