

MMR Information for the Immunizer

MMR Vaccine

- A combination of measles, mumps and rubella vaccine.
- A live, attenuated virus vaccine.
- May contain traces of antibiotics (e.g., neomycin) and a stabilizer such as gelatin.
- Two products licensed in Canada: M-M-R 11® - Merck Frost Canada Ltd.
Priorix® - GlaxoSmithKline Inc.

Schedule, Dosage and Route of Administration

- The standard dose is 0.5 ml.
- The vaccine should be administered subcutaneously using a 25 gauge, 1.6 cm (5/8") needle.
- SC injections for immunization are usually given at a 45° angle into subcutaneous tissue of the upper triceps area of the arm
- If two doses are required, they must be separated by a minimum of 4 weeks.

Simultaneous Administration with Other Vaccines

- The vaccine can be given concurrently with other vaccines administered using separate syringes and at different sites.
- When administered with other live vaccines, like varicella vaccine, the MMR vaccine should be given at the same time or separated by a minimum 4 week interval.

Storage Requirements

- The vaccine must be stored in the refrigerator at a temperature of +2° C to +8° C.
- The vaccine must be protected from light, which may inactivate the vaccine viruses.
- Once reconstituted, the vaccine must be used immediately.

Adverse Reactions

The following adverse reactions may occur in the adult population:

- Mild soreness or redness at the injection site that lasts for 1-2 days.
- A fever with or without a rash may occur 7-12 days after receiving MMR.
- The rubella component of the vaccine can cause pain and swelling of the joints. This can occur 1-3 weeks after receiving the vaccine and typically lasts a few days.

Note: Prompt reporting of adverse events following immunization is essential to guarantee vaccine safety, allow for timely corrective action when needed and to keep information regarding vaccine risk-benefit and contraindications up to date. Providers should report all severe or unusual adverse events to the local public health authority, regardless of whether or not they believe the events are caused by the vaccine. Providers should fully document the adverse event in the medical record at the time of the event or as soon as possible thereafter.

Contraindications

- Women who are pregnant or think they may be pregnant. Women who receive this vaccine should **not** become pregnant for at least one month following immunization.
- Administration of MMR vaccine should be deferred if there is any severe acute illness. Immunization should not be deferred because of a minor acute illness, with or without fever.
- Individuals who have had an anaphylactic reaction after receiving a dose of measles vaccine.
- Individuals who have an anaphylactic reaction to neomycin or who have a documented gelatin allergy.
- Individuals who have cancer, leukemia, lymphoma, or HIV infection.
- Individuals who are receiving chemotherapy or other immunosuppressive drugs.
- Individuals who received immune globulin (IG) during the past three months.

For detailed information on the vaccine, please refer to:

*Canadian Immunization Guide
Seventh Edition - 2006
Public Health Agency of Canada
www.naci.gc.ca*

For information to guide the practice of RNs providing immunization, please refer to:

*Immunization Guidelines for Registered Nurses
College of Registered Nurses of Nova Scotia
www.crnns.ca*

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