

National Immunisation Program

Rotavirus vaccine transition

1 July 2017

Important information for rotavirus vaccine transition

- Rotarix® and RotaTeq® vaccines have been used in Australia since July 2007. Both products have equivalent vaccine effectiveness and have led to a marked reduction in severe gastroenteritis cases in all Australian jurisdictions.
- Rotarix® dose 1 is given at 6 weeks and dose 2 is due at 4 months of age. The main difference between Rotarix® age restrictions (compared to RotaTeq®) is that the 1st dose must be administered prior to 15 weeks of age and the 2nd dose prior to 25 weeks of age.
- The minimum interval between doses is 4 weeks.
- During the vaccine brand transition period, some infants may receive fewer doses than routinely scheduled when using the RotaTeq® brand. The specific recommendations will vary depending on the age of the child and previous rotavirus vaccination history.
- If *most* of an oral rotavirus vaccine dose has been spat out or vomited within minutes of administration, a single repeat dose can be administered during the same visit. If an infant regurgitates or vomits only a *small part* of a vaccine dose, it is not necessary to repeat the dose; that dose can be considered valid.

Table 1. Overview of ATAGI's recommended rotavirus vaccine transition schedule from 1 July 2017.

Check the infant and the date of the last dose.
NOTE: Age cut-offs and minimum intervals between doses also apply as shown in Table 2 over page

Previous doses of RotaTeq® given	RotaTeq® available and Rotarix available ↓	RotaTeq® NOT available and Rotarix® available ↓
0	Do not commence RotaTeq®	Commence 2 dose Rotarix® schedule*
1	Give 2nd dose of RotaTeq®	Give 1 Rotarix® - No further doses required
2	Give 3rd dose RotaTeq®	No further doses required**

* Also refer to Table 4.17.1 in the online Australian Immunisation Handbook (Appendix 1).

** In this scenario, administration of a 3rd dose of Rotarix® is not routinely recommended but would be acceptable if given prior to turning 25 weeks of age.



Queensland
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Table 2. Potential scenarios and recommended response during RotaTeq® to Rotarix® transition period for states and territories, 2017.

The scenarios in this table assume there is not availability of RotaTeq®

Options/Scenarios	Infant age	Recommended response	Comments
Infant has NOT had a dose of any rotavirus vaccine AND is →	a) 6–14 weeks b) ≥15 weeks	a) Commence 2-dose course of Rotarix® b) Too old to commence any rotavirus vaccination dose. Do not give any dose.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure minimum interval of 4 weeks between vaccine doses ▪ Total of only 2 doses are needed to complete the course
Infant has been given 1 previous dose of RotaTeq® or Rotarix® AND is →	10–24 weeks	Give 1 dose of Rotarix®	
Infant has been given 2 previous doses of RotaTeq®		No more vaccine doses should be given	

Table 3. Potential error scenarios caused by the inadvertent administration of a rotavirus vaccine dose and recommended response¹

Options/Scenarios following inadvertent dose administration	Recommended response	Comments
Infant >14 weeks receives 1st dose of Rotarix®	Reassure and discuss minimally increased risk of intussusception. Provide information on symptoms/signs of intussusception and response ²	A second dose of Rotarix® can be given a minimum of 4 weeks later provided the child is still <25 weeks of age.
Infant >12 weeks receives 1st dose of RotaTeq®	Reassure and discuss minimally increased risk of intussusception. Provide information on symptoms/signs of intussusception and response ²	
Infant receives 3 doses of Rotarix®	Observe, reassure and discuss risk with parents	

¹ Note: Some of these errors may occur independently of any 'switch' in vaccine brands.

² See *Rotavirus vaccine and intussusception information for Parents and Guardians* on the NIP website at <http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/ITO136-cnt>