



# Community Vaccine Providers' News

Issue 1, January 2013

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## Northern Health Welcomes Pharmacists

As the Chief Medical Health Officer, I welcome the Pharmacists as key partners in support of a shared Provincial immunization strategy. Our goal is to reduce the incidence of vaccine-preventable communicable diseases and the associated impact of disease, disability, and death. Your valued participation in the provision of publicly-funded vaccines to the public at the community level will enhance public access and reduce barriers to key public health services.

Authorized Pharmacists will be able to offer a wider range of publicly-funded vaccines to eligible adults and children 5 years old and over. Publicly-funded vaccines are available through public health units, and together we will work towards the successful integration of immunization services.

*Dr. Ronald Chapman,  
Chief Medical Health Officer*

On behalf of the Public Health Nursing staff, we are very pleased that authorized pharmacists will be able to offer a wider range of publicly funded vaccines.

We value your assistance in providing eligible community members with improved access to immunization services.

Together we hope to reduce the incidence of vaccine preventable diseases.

*Jill Walker, RN, BScN  
Public Health Nurse Manager*



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10-414-6063 (IND 01/13)

## College of Pharmacists of BC Recognize the Contribution of Pharmacists

On behalf of the College of Pharmacists of BC, I want to recognize the contribution of pharmacists that are participating in this year's integrated immunization program with Northern Health. Pharmacists have been at the frontline of ensuring a sustainable health care system by taking on additional scope of practice where they have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to do so. Program such as this one demonstrate that commitment of the pharmacy profession to respond to the challenge of delivering care in the twenty-first century. The ability to dispense and administer publicly-funded vaccines to patients was simply a dream a few short years ago. Today it is a reality and your patients are better-served because of your willingness to act as pioneers in both our profession and in the communities you serve.

*Bob Nakagawa, B.Sc.(Pharm.),  
RPEBC, ACPR, FCSHP Registrar  
College of Pharmacists of BC*



## Public Health Association of BC Welcomes Pharmacists

Vaccination is considered one of the 12 great achievements in the history of public health. As public health associations in Canada point out, one hundred years ago infectious diseases were the leading causes of death worldwide. Now thanks to advances in vaccines and immunization they are the cause of less than 5% of all deaths in Canada. But the capacity to maintain our immunization efforts is always stretched. We can lose ground. That is why building an even stronger team across the whole health sector to contribute to our fight against infectious diseases has never been more important. Expanding the contribution of pharmacists in the vaccination efforts is another milestone in building a strong system for public health.

*Ted Bruce  
Co Chair  
Policy Advocacy Research Committee  
Public Health Association of BC*



## EXPANDED ACCESS TO PUBLICLY FUNDED VACCINES 2013

The Ministry of Health is pleased to announce that, starting in 2013, authorized pharmacists will be able to offer a wider range of pharmacist-administered injections of publicly funded vaccines to eligible adults and children 5 years old and over.

The Ministry has worked in partnership with the BC Pharmacy Association, BC Centre for Disease Control, College of Pharmacists of BC, University of British Columbia and regional health authorities to increase pharmacist participation in the administration of these publicly funded immunizations.

This follows the valuable assistance pharmacists have provided in protecting British Columbians from viral illnesses such influenza, pneumonia, measles, pertussis, and human papillomavirus (HPV) in recent years.

Each health authority is currently preparing information on ordering procedures and documentation requirements, and will communicate these to pharmacists through website postings, e-mails, and/or fax notices.

*Article sourced from: BC  
PharmaCare Newsletter (2012)  
<http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/newsletter/news12-013.pdf>*

## Human Papillomavirus (Cervarix™)—One Time Program for Women Born in 1991, 1992 and 1993

### Pharmacist Access Criteria

In the spring of 2012, B.C. launched a one-time program of publicly funded Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination (Cervarix™) for women who were born in 1991, 1992, and 1993. The BC Communicable Disease Policy Advisory Committee recommended this catch-up program as HPV vaccine is cost-effective in preventing precancerous changes and cancer of the cervix caused by HPV 16 and 18 in women.

Pharmacists authorized to administer immunizations have access to HPV (Cervarix™) vaccine and can administer it to eligible B.C. residents.

This program does not have a specific end date. It will continue until supplies are depleted. Once vaccine supplies are depleted, clients will have the option to purchase remaining doses to complete the series.

<http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/pdf/5c.pdf>

For further details on the product and the program please also refer to the Health Professionals section of the Immunize BC website and the HPV Vaccine Section for Health Professionals on the BCCDC website.

<http://www.bccdc.ca/dis-cond/comm-manual/CDManualChap2.htm>

## ImmunizeBC targeting young women in HPV promotion campaign

Preparations are now under way to launch a province-wide HPV vaccine promotional campaign in early February 2013. The campaign will target young women born between 1991-1993 to encourage them to get the Cervarix vaccine to protect them against cervical cancer. Promotional strategies will target these women primarily online and will include enhanced web-based messaging, social media and outreach to universities.

### Booster Campaign

ImmunizeBC is gearing up to launch an online advocacy campaign that will aim to seek out people of all walks of life (e.g. health professionals & the general public) who are passionate about immunization. The vision behind the campaign is that sharing positive information, stories and resources within personal networks can boost long-term community protection by influencing knowledge, attitudes and beliefs related to immunizations. Watch for more info on how to become a Booster at <http://immunizebc.ca/> in the coming months. ***We want you to join our Booster Team!***



## Key Dates

**January 21, 2013**—The anticipated date that pharmacists can start placing orders with their local health units.

**February 4, 2013**—Health units expect to be able to start filling pharmacists' vaccine orders.

Please note that these dates may vary by health authority and may vary by each HSDA.

## Pharmacist To Know - Eliza De lara, RPh



“I was really enthusiastic to be trained and participate in administering vaccinations. By making vaccinations more accessible and thereby increasing the rate of vaccinations, pharmacists are contributing to improving health outcomes for the public. Working collaboratively with other members of the health care team, pharmacists now play a more important role in disease prevention.”

*Eliza De lara, RPh  
Overwaitea #70 Prince Rupert*



## "I Have Immunity" Text Messaging Reminder Cards



Cards have been distributed throughout Northern Health about a new free text messaging system for clients who would like to be reminded about their next vaccine appointment (e.g. HPV, primary series). Anyone can easily sign up themselves by simply texting 604-757-2705 to register. If a parent enters their infant's birthdate, the system will also send a message to remind the parent to call to make a vaccination appointment with their healthcare provider for each vaccination milestone until 18 months of age.

Healthcare providers can also use this new system to complement existing phone call reminders. When setting up the next appointment, simply ask the client if they would like to receive a reminder by phone call or text message. If text is indicated, ask the client to text the number on the card using

their cell phone (it only takes seconds). ImmunizeBC will immediately send a text back to the client's phone confirming their registration.

When this is done, the client can be removed from the phone call reminder list.

For more information on how the text messaging system works, please review the FAQ at [www.immunizebc.ca/sms-texting-faq](http://www.immunizebc.ca/sms-texting-faq).

Ian Roe, Content Strategist  
BC Centre for Disease Control

Northern Health Webpage for 'Professionals' will host an "Immunization Resources & Tools" tab for CVP

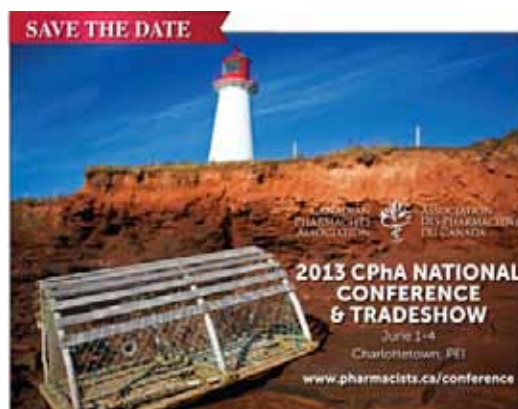
Coming soon; a Professionals webpage on Northern Health's Website with links to all key resources, documents and forms to support Community Vaccine providers.

<http://www.northernhealth.ca/Professionals/ImmunizationResourcesTools.aspx>

*To the man who only has a hammer, everything he encounters begins to look like a nail.*

*—Abraham Maslow*

## Upcoming Events:



2013 Canadian Pharmacists Association National Conference & Tradeshow June 1 - 4, 2013 Charlottetown, PEI

Call for abstracts and stories open now.

See [www.pharmacists.ca/conference](http://www.pharmacists.ca/conference)

Canadian Public Health Association 2013 Annual Conference **Moving Public Health Forward: Evidence, Policy, Practice** Ottawa, ON June 9-12, 2013

The purpose of this newsletter is to serve as a communications tool to share and promote immunization information and resources with all Community Vaccine Providers (CVPs) within the Northern Health region. The content of this first edition focuses on the expanded scope of Pharmacists as CVPs, but contributions from all CVPs are welcome. If you are interested in contributing to future issues of this newsletter please contact me at [cynthia.monk@northernhealth.ca](mailto:cynthia.monk@northernhealth.ca)