

VACCINOLOGIST UPDATE



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Vaccine Preservative: Thimerosal

Topping a lot of vaccine related news stories lately, is the preservative in vaccines called Thimerosal. As you may recall from School that this is a stabilizing agent, mercury derivative, used in multi-dose vaccine vials to prevent bacterial contamination. As this gets wider press coverage more and more parents may ask about this preservative in the vaccines their children are receiving. Are you prepared to answer their questions? Here is the CDC "Cliff Notes" on Thimerosal. Take a moment to visit this site and educate yourself, provide good information to parents and patients alike. <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/Q&A/genqa/Thimerosal.htm>

CDC Recommends immediate suspension of Rotavirus vaccine until November.

<http://www.cdc.gov/epo/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm4827a1.htm>

A Note from Lackland: BMTS Immunizations

The Air Force is now accepting home schooled recruits. Most of these recruits have never been immunized. You may start to see Airman in-process your base with a #1 behind their Td and IPV instead of OPV. (Keeping with AVIP recommendations that no one over the age of 18 that has not received Polio Vaccine receive IPV instead of OPV). These folks will need to complete the series of these vaccines. They will only receive the initial dose in Basic and need #2 in tech school and #3 probably at their gaining base. (Depending on the length of tech school)

Continuing Education Link Now Activated

I am currently in discussion with the folks at SG and AETC in creating a formal continuing education process for all those that administer Immunizations. Due to the fast pace changes in Immunizations it is probably going to be a mandate that a certain number of CEU's be obtained over a twelve month period for anyone who administers vaccine. All will be web based. The number will be low and information condensed to conserve precious time. I will make every attempt to locate and post professional articles that our civilian counterparts are using. This will include the CDC Epi-vac course. Right now it is for information only with no credit given. <http://wwwsam.brooks.af.mil/web/eh/immdoc/ceu.htm>

Supplemental Guide for Supervisors of 4N0X1A

The target publication date for this is the first week of August. It will be an interactive document with the shortcuts to resources for know how on the 4N0X1A.

"Attention to detail is a key to success, is it on your key chain?"

