

A Quick Look at Using RotaTeq®—Rotavirus Vaccine (Rota)

Points to Remember about RotaTeq® (live, oral vaccine to prevent rotavirus gastroenteritis)

- ❑ Routinely given orally as a 3-dose series at 2, 4 and 6 months of age
- ❑ 1st dose MUST be given between 6-12 weeks of age. DO NOT start the series after 12 weeks of age.
- ❑ The minimum interval between doses is 4 weeks (There is no “maximum” interval between doses)
- ❑ DO NOT give any doses after the infant is 32 weeks of age
- ❑ Can be administered at the same time as other routine childhood vaccines
- ❑ Premature infants who are discharged from the hospital and are clinically stable can get RotaTeq®
- ❑ Can be given to a child who is living with a pregnant woman or immunocompromised person
- ❑ Give parents the Rotavirus Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) every time you administer a dose of vaccine. Copies are available at your local health department or www.michigan.gov/immunize. Make sure all VIS include information about MCIR (Michigan Care Improvement Registry).
- ❑ Document as “rotavirus pentavalent” in MCIR and as “rotavirus or rota” on the immunization record card and the vaccine administration record
- ❑ Publicly purchased Rota can be administered to eligible children through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program in private providers’ offices. Eligible children include those who are uninsured, underinsured, Medicaid-eligible, Native American or Alaskan Natives. Contact your local health department for more information.

Storage and Handling

- ❑ Store RotaTeq® vaccine in refrigerator at 35°- 46° F (2°- 8° C). DO NOT FREEZE.
- ❑ Dispose of the vaccine tube/top in a biologic waste container after administration (Remember! It’s a live vaccine)

Administration

- ❑ RotaTeq® is given orally; total amount is 2 mL (about ½ teaspoon)
- ❑ Give directly from the tube it comes in- just remove the cap and gently squeeze the liquid into the infant's mouth toward the inner cheek, allowing the baby to swallow. (A drop may remain in the tip of the tube)
- ❑ Give this vaccine before you give the shots (easier to get the child to swallow it!)
- ❑ Do not add the vaccine to other liquids or food
- ❑ Do not repeat doses that are regurgitated (spit up or vomited); count the dose and give next dose as scheduled
- ❑ May breast feed, offer fluids/food immediately before or after giving RotaTeq®

Contraindication to Vaccination

- ❑ Previous anaphylactic (severe allergic) reaction to rotavirus vaccine or a component of the vaccine

Precautions to Vaccination

- ❑ Acute gastroenteritis, diarrhea
- ❑ Moderate to severe illness; temp greater than 100.5° F
- ❑ Preexisting chronic gastrointestinal disease
- ❑ Previous history of intussusception
- ❑ Altered immunocompetence such as: blood dyscrasias, leukemia, on immunosuppressive therapy (including high-dose systemic corticosteroids), primary and acquired immunodeficiency states, including HIV/AIDS, cellular immune deficiencies *and hypogammaglobulinemic and dysgammaglobulinemic states.*
- ❑ Moms who are HIV/AIDS positive and the infant’s HIV status is unknown
- ❑ History of receiving a blood transfusion or blood product, including immunoglobulins, within 42 days