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COMDTNOTE 6230
SUBJ: ANTHRAX VACCINE - CHANGE IN ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION AND IN DOSING SCHEDULE.
A. CG ANTHRAX VACCINATION IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM (AVIP), COMDTINST M6230.3(SERIES)
1. THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA) HAS APPROVED A CHANGE IN THE ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION FOR THE ANTHRAX VACCINE FROM A SUBCUTANEOUS (SC) INJECTION TO AN INTRAMUSCULAR (IM) INJECTION. THE FDA HAS ALSO APPROVED A CHANGE IN THE VACCINATION SERIES BY REMOVING THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE 2-WEEK DOSE. RESEARCH HAS DETERMINED THAT A REDUCTION FROM 6 DOSES TO 5 DOSES PROVIDED THE SAME BENEFIT OF PROTECTION AGAINST ANTHRAX. ADDITIONALLY, RESEARCHERS DETERMINED THAT THE IM ADMINISTRATION SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED THE OCCURRENCE OF LOCAL ADVERSE EVENTS AT THE INJECTION SITE.
2. THE ANTHRAX VACCINATION WILL NOW BE GIVEN AS A SERIES OF FIVE 0.5 ML IM DOSES AT 0, 4 WEEK, 6 MONTH, 12 MONTH AND 18 MONTH, WITH BOOSTERS GIVEN ANNUALLY TO MAINTAIN IMMUNITY. FOR MISSED OR LATE DOSES, RESUME THE PRIMARY SERIES WITH ADMINISTRATION OF THE NEXT DOSE IN THE SERIES. ADMINISTER SUBSEQUENT DOSES OF VACCINE AT INTERVALS BASED ON THE DATE THE LAST DOSE WAS GIVEN NOT WHEN IT WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED. THE ANTHRAX VACCINE SERIES DOES NOT NEED TO BE RESTARTED REGARDLESS OF THE TIME ELAPSED SINCE LAST DOSE.
3. THE NEW ROUTE AND SCHEDULE IS A CLINICAL CHANGE AND DOES NOT ALTER THE POPULATION BEING VACCINATED OR THE PREVIOUS REQUIREMENTS OF THE CG AVIP.
4. PRIOR TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF ANY ANTHRAX VACCINE, THE PATIENT MUST RECEIVE A COPY OF THE VACCINE INFORMATION STATEMENT (VIS) AND THE DOD ANTHRAX INDIVIDUAL INFORMATION TRIFOLD BROCHURE. THESE ARE SHIPPED TO CG CLINICS/SICKBAYS AT NO COST IN THE SAME QUANTITY AS THE ORDERED VACCINE. THESE PRODUCTS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ON-LINE FOR DOWNLOADING AT HTTP://WWW.ANTHRAX.MIL/AVIP2008 OR HTTP://WWW.VACCINES.MIL/ANTHRAX.
5. THE ORDERING PROCESS FOR ANTHRAX VACCINE WILL REMAIN THE SAME. DESIGNATED PERSONNEL WILL CONTINUE TO ORDER FROM THE USAMMA WEBSITE.
6. THE MEDICAL READINESS REPORTING SYSTEM (MRRS) WILL BE UPDATED OVER THE NEXT 30 DAYS TO REFLECT THE DOSING AND ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION CHANGE. IN THE INTERIM, HEALTH SERVICES PERSONNEL MUST DOCUMENT ANTHRAX VACCINATIONS IN THE PAPER HEALTH RECORD AND MUST MAINTAIN A LIST OF PERSONNEL WHO HAVE RECEIVED THE ANTHRAX VACCINE DURING THIS INTERIM PERIOD. WHEN MRRS HAS BEEN UPDATED, HEALTH SERVICES PERSONNEL MUST ENSURE THAT THEY ENTER THE MEMBER'S ANTHRAX VACCINATION INFORMATION INTO MRRS.
7. THESE CHANGES WILL BE REFLECTED IN THE NEXT UPDATE TO REFERENCE A.
8. FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS UPDATE PLEASE CONTACT CAPT ANITA ARNOLD BY E-MAIL AT ANITA.F.ARNOLD(AT)USCG.MIL OR (202) 475-5171.
FOR CLINICAL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS UPDATE, CONTACT CDR ERICA SCHWARTZ BY E-MAIL AT ERICA.G.SCHWARTZ(AT)USCG.MIL OR (202) 475-

5172.
9. RADM MARK J. TEDESCO, DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, SAFETY AND WORK-LIFE SENDS.
10. INTERNET RELEASE AUTHORIZED.
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