

# NWT Clinical Practice Information Notice

UPON RECEIPT: (1) PLEASE FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS BELOW  
 (2) FILE THIS NOTICE IN SECTION C, CLINICAL PRACTICE INFORMATION BINDER FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

The following clinical practice has been approved for use in the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services system, and has been distributed to:

- |   |  |   |  |  |  |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hospitals | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Health Centers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Health Units | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Doctors' Offices | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Services Offices | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: CDC Manuals |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|

The information contained in this document is a Departmental:

- |                                 |                                   |                                   |                                    |                                     |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Standard | <input type="checkbox"/> Protocol | <input type="checkbox"/> Procedure | <input type="checkbox"/> Guidelines |
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**Title: Prenatal Screening for Varicella Immune Status**

**Effective Date:** This is to clarify the prenatal varicella screening protocol subsumed in the Revised NWT Prenatal Record and attached Maternal Health Program protocol dated January 18, 2002.

**Statement of approved clinical practice:**

Based upon the recommendation of the NWT Immunization Advisory Committee and the NWT Maternal & Perinatal Committee:

1. Primary care providers are to assess the varicella immunity status by asking all prenatal clients if they have had varicella (chickenpox) disease. A reliable history of past varicella infection is sufficient to determine immune status.

**Note: Only do IgG serology for varicella if the history is unreliable or uncertain history.**

Documentation of varicella immune status is to be entered on the NWT Prenatal Record.

2. Susceptible women are to be vaccinated with 2 doses of varicella vaccine: 0.5 ml administered in the immediate postpartum prior to discharge and the second 0.5 ml administered 4-8 weeks later, preferably at the 4 week (minimum 28 day) interval to coincide with the visit of the infant for the second dose of hepatitis B vaccine.

This clinical practice is approved.  \_\_\_\_\_  
 (signature)

Assistant Deputy Minister  Chief Medical Officer of Health  Director, Child & Family Services  Director, Adoptions