

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:

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| <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 type="checkbox"/> Other: CDC Manuals |
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The information contained in this document is a Departmental:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Standard | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protocol | <input type="checkbox"/> Procedure | <input type="checkbox"/> Guidelines |
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Title: BCG Policy

Effective Date: December 13, 2002

Statement of approved clinical practice: The NWT Advisory Committee on Immunization recommends that all children in the NWT be offered BCG. The BCG Policy, in the *Tuberculosis Protocol for the NWT* manual, states that the vaccine be offered routinely to all high risk newborns. A review of the data indicates that BCG vaccine has primarily been offered to aboriginal children in isolated communities.


The current practice should be to offer BCG vaccine to all infants, but with emphasis on **aboriginal and immigrant children** living in families or communities with a history or risk of exposure to tuberculosis. This also includes children at risk in larger communities, such as Inuvik, Yellowknife and Hay River.

BCG immunization against tuberculosis has been shown to prevent severe complications of this infection. **Immunization of newborns is recommended in areas of high incidence.**

Maximum rates of immunization can be attained when this program is carried out in hospital prior to the discharge of the newborn.

Because of the risk of BCG being given to infants with impaired cell-mediated immune response, BCG should only be given to infants if their mother has had a documented negative HIV test during her pregnancy. If not, then the infant requires a documented negative HIV test prior to receiving BCG.

Refer to Appendix 3A of the *Tuberculosis Protocol for the NWT* manual to review BCG Policy.

This clinical practice is approved. 

 (signature)

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| Assistant Deputy Minister <input type="checkbox"/> | Chief Medical Officer of Health <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Director, Child & Family Services <input type="checkbox"/> | Director, Adoptions <input type="checkbox"/> |
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