

URGENT QUEENSLAND HEALTH PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT

INTUSSUSCEPTION AND ROTAVIRUS VACCINE

Alert No#1

Date: 28 February 2011

Time 10:00

Based on new evidence from Australian and overseas studies, Australia's Chief Medical Officer has advised of a small increased risk of intussusception in infants following rotavirus vaccination.

Queensland Health will be urgently mailing to all vaccine service providers, one copy of:

Letter from the Chief Medical Officer

Rotavirus vaccine and intussusception - Summary information for Immunisation Providers

Rotavirus vaccine and intussusception - Information for parents

The Department of Health and Ageing will do a mailout of provider and parent information when the material has been printed.

The documents and further information are available on the Immunise Australia website at www.immunise.health.gov.au

Recommendations for GPs

- Continue to vaccinate infants with rotavirus vaccine as per the National Immunisation Schedule
- Do not vaccinate children with a history of intussusception
- Do not give the vaccine to children outside of the recommended age limits
- Inform parents and carers of young infants receiving rotavirus vaccine of the rare risk of intussusception following the vaccine and how to be alert to the signs and symptoms of the condition
- Urgently review advice on the Immunise Australia website and information sent from Australia's Chief Medical Officer

Authorised by Dr C. Selvey
Senior Director,
Communicable Diseases Branch
Queensland Health

