NEONATAL MEDICATION GUIDELINE	
Rotavirus Vaccine (Rotarix®)	
Scope (Staff):	Nursing, Medical and Pharmacy Staff
Scope (Area):	KEMH NICU, PCH NICU, NETS WA
This document should be read in conjunction with the Disclaimer.	

Quick Links

Dose	Preparation & Administration	Side Effects & Interactions	Monitoring

Restrictions

Formulary: Unrestricted

HIGH RISK Medication ⚠

Description

Live, attenuated rotavirus vaccine

Presentation

Oral liquid: 1.5mL

Storage

Refrigerate between 2 to 8°C. Do not freeze. Store in original package to protect from light.

Contraindications

- Acute severe febrile illness
- Hypersensitivity to first dose
- Previous intussusception
- Congenital abnormality that may predispose to intussusception (e.g. Meckel diverticulum)
- Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID)

Precautions

- Infants on glucocorticoids.
- Immunocompromised child or family members: vaccine is a live attenuated vaccine; consider risk vs. benefit in this population.
- Infants who were born to mothers who received biological disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (bDMARDs), particularly in the 3rd trimester, are not recommended to receive rotavirus vaccine.

Dose

Vaccine

Do not prescribe unless consent has been confirmed.

Oral:

Normally given with 6-week and 4-month immunisations,

1st dose: can be given between 6 and 14 weeks of age,

2nd dose: can be given between 14 and 24 weeks of age.

Note*:* must be a minimum of 4 weeks between 1st and 2nd dose.

Dose Adjustment

If an infant has NOT had a dose of any rotavirus vaccine AND is ≥ 15 weeks then that infant is NOT ELIGIBLE to commence any rotavirus vaccination dose.

Preterm infants: Vaccine is administered at a chronologic age (without correction for prematurity) similar to term infants, if the infant is clinically stable.

Administration

NOTE: Parent/Guardian consent is to be obtained prior to administration of all vaccinations.

Oral

Do not administer unless consent has been confirmed.

Prior to administration:

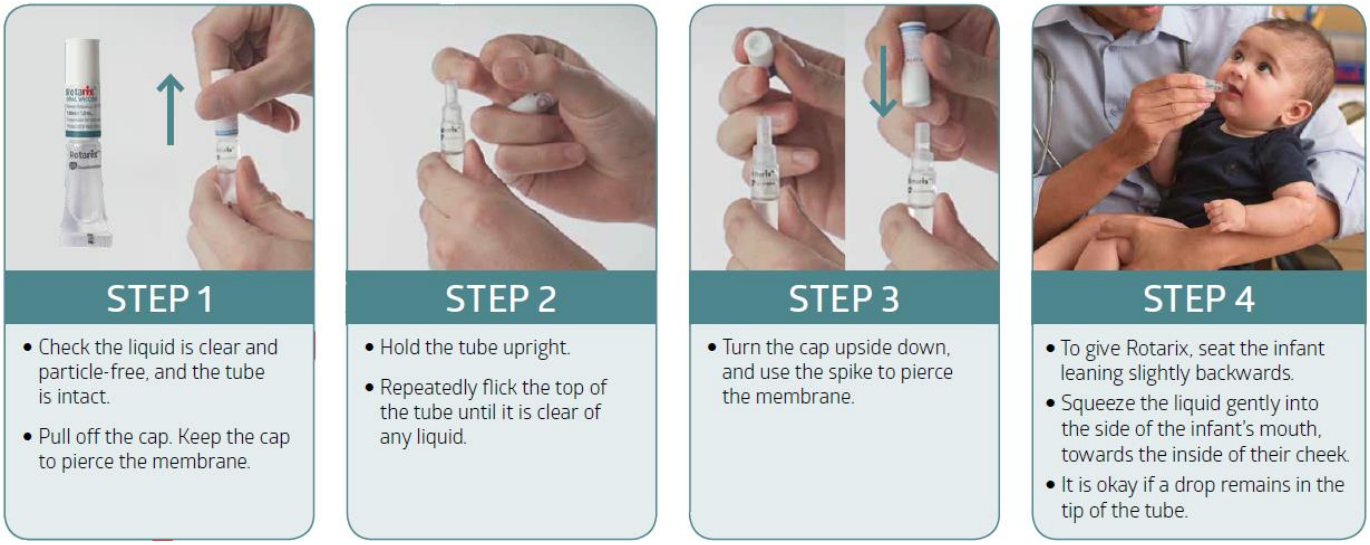
Do not dilute contents of tube: the vaccine is ready use.

Can be given with or without feeds.

For oral administration only. May be administered via nasogastric/orogastric tubes if clinically indicated.

Other vaccines may be given at the same time.

Administration: **ORAL ADMINISTRATION ONLY**



Post Administration:

Observe infant for 15 minutes post administration for anaphylaxis

Ensure use of universal infection control precautions when handling infants who have recently received rotavirus vaccination to avoid risk of contamination or faecal-oral spread.

If most of the oral rotavirus vaccine is vomited or regurgitated within minutes of administration, a single repeat dose may be administered during the same immunisation encounter.

If the infant regurgitates or vomits only a small amount of the oral rotavirus vaccine, it is considered as a valid dose and is not necessary to repeat the dose.

Side Effects

Common: diarrhoea, vomiting, pyrexia, nasopharyngitis

Serious: intussusception (rare)

Interactions

Nil significant

Monitoring

Observe infant for 15 minutes post administration for anaphylaxis

Comments

The vaccination course of Rotateq® is 3 doses, at 2, 4 and 6 months of age.

Related Policies, Procedures & Guidelines

HDWA Policies:

Western Australian Immunisation Schedule

Clinical Practice Guidelines:

Standard and transmission-based precautions

CAHS Neonatology - Immunisations Guideline

References

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NSQHS Standards Applicable:	☒ Std 1: Clinical Governance ☐ Std 2: Partnering with Consumers ☐ Std 3: Preventing and Controlling Healthcare Associated Infection ☒ Std 4: Medication Safety			☐ Std 5: Comprehensive Care ☐ Std 6: Communicating for Safety ☐ Std 7: Blood Management ☐ Std 8: Recognising and Responding to Acute Deterioration	
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