

Clarify the Latest Meningococcal Vaccine Recommendations

Questions are swirling about meningococcal vaccination...due to new combo meningococcal ABCWY vaccines and changes in dosing schedules.

Meningococcal disease is rare. But about 15% of cases are fatal...and up to 20% result in long-term complications, such as brain damage.

Ensure eligible patients get the right vaccine at the right time.

Meningococcal ACWY vaccines. Continue to give 1 dose of quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine (*Menveo*, *MenQuadfi*) to all adolescents at age 11 or 12 years...plus a booster at age 16.

Also recommend MenACWY vaccination for patients 2 months and up at increased risk...such as those with asplenia, including sickle cell disease. The dosing schedule depends on age, risks, and prior vaccines.

Keep in mind, MenACWY vaccines are interchangeable.

But stay alert for mix-ups when ordering, prepping doses, etc.

For example, *Menveo* comes as a 2-vial formulation that requires reconstitution...and a 1-vial product that does not.

The 2-vial *Menveo* can be used for ages 2 months and up...the 1-vial *Menveo* for ages 10 years and up...and *MenQuadfi* for ages 2 years and up.

Meningococcal B vaccines. Continue to ADD a MenB series (*Bexsero*, *Trumenba*) for patients 10 years and up at increased risk (asplenia, etc).

But when giving *Bexsero* to these patients, now give THREE doses at 0, 1 to 2, and 6 months...just like with *Trumenba*.

For patients 16 to 23 years NOT otherwise at risk of meningococcal B disease, weigh pros and cons of vaccination...to reach a shared decision.

For instance, explain that the risk of meningococcal B goes up if living in a college dorm or being in a fraternity or sorority.

If patients 16 through 23 years want MenB vaccine, give 2 doses of *Bexsero* or *Trumenba*. And now, give the second *Bexsero* dose at 6 months...similar to *Trumenba*. Use the SAME brand for all doses...and any boosters.

Combo MenABCWY vaccines. Consider a new 5-in-1 vaccine as an option when a patient 10 years or older needs MenACWY and MenB at the same visit.

Penbraya contains MenACWY plus *Trumenba*.

And a combo that contains *Menveo* and *Bexsero* is slated for approval.

Point out that patients who get *Penbraya* will need to get *Trumenba* for any future MenB doses...since MenB vaccines aren't interchangeable.

See our Meningococcal Vaccines chart and our Meningococcal Vaccination algorithm for advice on outbreaks, costs, and more.

Cite this document as follows: Article, Clarify the Latest Meningococcal Vaccine Recommendations, Pharmacist's Letter Canada, January 2025

The content of this article is provided for educational and informational purposes only, and is not a substitute for the advice, opinion or diagnosis of a trained medical professional. If your organization is interested in an enterprise subscription, email sales@trchealthcare.com.

© 2025 Therapeutic Research Center (TRC). TRC and Pharmacist's Letter Canada and the associated logo(s) are trademarks of Therapeutic Research Center. All Rights Reserved.

Key References:

- Collins JP, Crowe SJ, Ortega-Sanchez IR, et al. Use of the Pfizer Pentavalent Meningococcal Vaccine Among Persons Aged 10 Years: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices - United States, 2023. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2024 Apr 18;73(15):345-350.
- Mbaeyi SA, Bozio CH, Duffy J, et al. Meningococcal Vaccination: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, United States, 2020. MMWR Recomm Rep. 2020 Sep 25;69(9):1-41.
- Immunize.org. Ask the experts: meningococcal ACWY. November 15, 2024. <https://www.immunize.org/ask-experts/topic/menacwy/> (Accessed November 25, 2024).
- Immunize.org. Ask the experts: meningococcal B. November 15, 2024. <https://www.immunize.org/ask-experts/topic/menb/> (Accessed November 25, 2024).

Pharmacist's Letter. January 2025, No. 410103

Cite this document as follows: Article, Clarify the Latest Meningococcal Vaccine Recommendations, Pharmacist's Letter Canada, January 2025

The content of this article is provided for educational and informational purposes only, and is not a substitute for the advice, opinion or diagnosis of a trained medical professional. If your organization is interested in an enterprise subscription, email sales@trchealthcare.com.

© 2025 Therapeutic Research Center (TRC). TRC and Pharmacist's Letter Canada and the associated logo(s) are trademarks of Therapeutic Research Center. All Rights Reserved.