



June 24, 2008

Medical Health Officers  
Directors of Health Protection  
Regional Managers of Licensing

Dear Colleagues:

**Re: Immunization in Adult Residential Care Facilities**

It has recently been brought to my attention by a Coroner's Judgement of Inquiry that there is a need to provide greater direction to licensed community facilities with respect to the immunization of residents. As preventive treatment is an important component of promoting the health and safety of vulnerable persons in care, the attached Director of Licensing Standard of Practice has been developed under the authority of section 4(1) of the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act*, which provides that the director of licensing may:

- (e) specify policies and standards of practice for all community care facilities or a class of community care facilities...

Information regarding the benefits of immunization must be provided to persons in care (or their substitute decision makers, if applicable), and persons in care must be provided with the opportunity to receive an annual influenza vaccine, as well as additional immunizations as recommended by the BC Centre for Disease Control.

Please share this information with your licensed community care facilities that provide residential care to seniors and others.

Yours truly,

Sue Bedford  
Director of Licensing

- pc: Ms. Leigh Ann Seller, A/Executive Director, Home and Community Care  
Ms. Katie Hill, Director, Home and Community Care  
Mr. Warren O'Briain, Executive Director  
Communicable Disease and Addictions Prevention  
Dr. Monika Naus, Executive Director, BC Centre for Disease Control  
Mr. Terry Smith, Chief Coroner, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Mr. Craig Thompson, Manager, Immunization Programmes  
Communicable Disease and Addictions Prevention

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	<b>Effective:</b> <b>Revised:</b>	<b>June 24, 2008</b>

This Standard of Practice is made under the authority of section (4)(1)(e) of the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* (CCALA), which provides that the Director of Licensing may:

- (e) Specify policies and standards of practice for all community care facilities or a class of community care facilities...

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**Relevant Legislation:**

**CCALA - Standards to be Maintained**

7(1) A licensee must do all of the following:

operate the community care facility in a manner that will promote the health, safety and dignity of persons in care

**Adult Care Regulations – General Regulations**

4(3) The licensee shall

- (a) require that all persons being admitted to a licensed community care facility comply with the immunization program of the ministry and participate in its tuberculosis control program,
- (a.1) record each person in care's compliance with and participation in the program referred to in paragraph (a).

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**Standard of Practice:**

1. Licensees of Community Care Facilities must:
- a. Review the immunization status of each person in care upon admission, and regularly thereafter.
  - b. Keep clear and up to date records of the immunization status of each person in care.

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- c. Provide information to persons in care regarding the benefits of immunization including pneumococcal, annual influenza and tetanus-diphtheria if appropriate.
  - d. Offer pneumococcal immunization to each resident upon admission, if they have not received it prior to admission.
  - e. Develop a care plan for each resident on admission to include annual influenza immunization and use of antivirals if they become ill with influenza or as prophylaxis if there is an outbreak of influenza in the facility.