Standing Order for Administering Anthrax Vaccine (Adult)

Purpose: To reduce morbidity and mortality from anthrax by vaccinating all persons who meet the criteria established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) product labeling, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

Policy: Under these standing orders, eligible nurses and other health care professionals working within their scope of practice may vaccinate patients who meet the criteria below.

Procedure:

1. Identify all persons 18 - 65 years of age in need of vaccination against anthrax based on the following criteria:
   - Required for individuals as indicated per Combatant Command (CCMD) force health protection requirements
   - Voluntary for individuals who have received at least one previous dose
   - Occupational exposure to *Bacillus anthracis* in the laboratory

2. Screen all patients for contraindications and precautions to the anthrax vaccine (AVA):

   Contraindications:
   - A history of a serious reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose of AVA or to a vaccine component
   - For information on vaccine components, refer to the manufacturer's package insert or go to http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/appendices/b/excipient-table-2.pdf
   - Pregnancy: defer vaccination until completion of pregnancy
   - History of anthrax disease

   Precautions:
   - Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever
   - Breastfeeding
   - The vials of BioThrax® contain natural rubber latex and may cause allergic reactions in latex sensitive individuals
   - Syncope (fainting) can occur in association with administration of injectable vaccines. Procedures should be in place to avoid a falling injury (e.g. 15 minute observation after administration) and to restore cerebral perfusion following syncope
   - For questions or concerns, consider consulting the DHA Immunization Healthcare Division at (877) 438-8222, Option 1 or DSN 761-4245

3. Provide all patients (or their parent/legal representative) with a copy of the most current federal Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) and the DoD brochure titled "*What You Need to Know About Anthrax Vaccine*." You must document, in the patient's medical record, the publication date of the VIS and the date it was given to the patient (parent/legal representative). Provide non-English speaking patients with a copy of the VIS in their native language, if available and preferred; these can be found at www.immunize.org/vis.

4. Provide vaccine as follows
    - AVA (BioThrax®) consists of a 3-dose priming series at 0, 1, and 6 months, with booster doses at 12 and 18 months and annually thereafter.
    - Administer 0.5mL intramuscularly in the deltoid muscle for adults

Needle Length and Injection Site of IM Injections for Adults		
Use a 22 – 25 gauge needle. Choose needle gauge and length appropriate to administration route and the patient's age and body mass.		
Age Group	**Needle Length**	**Injection Site**
Men and Women (<130 lbs)	1 inch†	Deltoid Muscle of Arm
Men and Women (130-152 lbs)	1 inch	
Men (152-260 lbs)	1-1.5 inches	
Women (152-200 lbs)		
Men (> 260 lbs)	1.5 inches	
Women (>200 lbs)		

Adapted from General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization: Vaccine Administration
https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/administration.html
† Some experts recommend a 5/8 inch needle for men and women who weigh <130 lbs, skin must be stretched tightly (do not bunch subcutaneous tissue)

5. Observe a minimum interval of 4 weeks between the 1st and 2nd dose; 150 days between the 2nd and 3rd dose; and at least 180 days between the 3rd, 4th, and 5th doses. DO NOT compress the minimum interval between doses. Do not restart the primary series for any reason; resume the series with administration of the next dose.

6. Refer women who were inadvertently vaccinated while pregnant to the BioThrax (Anthrax) Vaccine in Pregnancy Registry via email at nhrc-VaccineRegistry@med.navy.mil or by calling (619) 553-9255.

7. Document all immunizations administered in the patient's electronic health record and the appropriate immunization tracking system. Include date, immunization given, dose, anatomical location of administration, lot number, manufacturer, Vaccine Information Sheet (VIS) date, and the identification of the person administering the vaccine. If vaccine was not given, record the reason for non-receipt.

8. Be prepared to manage a medical emergency related to the administration of vaccines by having a written emergency medical protocol available, as well as equipment and medications.

9. Adverse events occurring after administration of any vaccine should be reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Reports can be submitted to VAERS online, by fax, or by mail. Additional information about VAERS is available by telephone (800-822-7967) or online at https://vaers.hhs.gov.

10. This policy and procedure shall remain in effect for all patients of the _____ until rescinded and/or upon a change in the Medical Director, whichever is earlier.

_____
Medical Director's Signature

_____
Date