



## Common Vaccination Errors in Administering Childhood Immunizations: What to Do?

Childhood Immunization Workgroup  
Arkansas Children's South Campus Professional Building II  
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# CDC Recommendations in MMWR

- Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report
- Available online at no cost  
[https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwr\\_wk.html](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwr_wk.html)
- Immunization MMWRs can be found at  
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/news/news-pubs/index.html>
- Full CDC recommendations with summaries of studies and background information
- Recommendations become “official” when published in MMWR

# General Errors

- Mixing vaccine with the wrong diluent
- Administering expired vaccine
- Administering spoiled vaccines
- Wrong route
- Wrong interval between doses of same vaccine
- Administering two live vaccines too close together

# Hepatitis A

## Error

1. Adult formulation was administered to a child
2. HepB, Hib or HPV administered instead of HepA vaccine

## Now What?

1. The dose counts, revaccination is not indicated – if it meets the minimum age and interval (if applicable)
2. Dose does not count towards completion of the Hep A series

\*To avoid this type of error do not store vaccines with like-sounding names together

# MMR or MMRV

## Error

1. Wrong diluent used to reconstitute vaccine
2. MMRV administered after the age of 12 years

## Now What?

1. Dose does NOT count and should be repeated same day or wait 28 days.
2. Dose counts if the minimum interval has been met

\*\* Always remember to store the vaccine according to the manufacturers recommendations and use a new needle and syringe for each patient

# Pneumococcal

## Error

1. Wrong vaccine given – PPSV23 given to an infant
1. More than 1 PPSV23 dose to immunocompetent at-risk person

## Now What?

1. Does not count as PCV13 vaccine dose. Administer a dose of PCV13 as soon as the error is discovered.
2. No action needed

# DTaP

## Error

1. Administered DTaP to a person 11 years of age or older
2. Pentacel reconstituted with the wrong diluent
3. Kinrix or Quadracel administered as one of the first 4 doses in the DTaP series

## Now What?

1. Count as the Tdap dose if it meets the appropriate minimum age and interval for the dose. Revaccination is not indicated.
2. Dose does not count. Revaccinate ASAP.
3. Dose can count if it meets the appropriate minimum age and interval for the dose

# Tdap

## Error

1. Tdap was administered to a child younger than 7 years of age
2. Fully vaccinated child 7 – 10 years of age

## Now What?

1. If dose 1, 2, or 3: dose does not count. Administer DTaP as soon as possible. If dose 4 or 5: Dose counts, revaccination is not indicated.
2. Tdap dose does not count as the adolescent dose of Tdap. Tdap should be administered at 11-12 years of age.



# Hepatitis B

## Error

1. Adult formulation administered to a child
2. Pediatric formulation administered to an adult
3. Hep A instead of Hep B

## Now What?

1. More antigen than the recommended dose was administered. If the dose meets the minimum age and interval, it may be counted.
2. Less antigen than the recommended dose was administered. The dose does NOT count and should be repeated ASAP. There is no time/spacing interval that must be met
3. Does not count towards completion of Hep B series

# Polio

## Error

1. Age/dose errors: Kinrix or Quadracel for doses 1 through 3
2. Preparation errors: Wrong diluent to reconstitute DTaP-IPV-Hib (Pentacel)
3. Schedule errors: Dose 4 administered too soon

## Now What?

1. If the minimum age and interval from the last dose of polio vaccine has been met, the dose can count and does not need to be repeated
2. Do **not** use Kinrix or Quadracel to reconstitute Pentacel
3. Doses administered 5 or more days before the minimum age and/or interval do not count and should be repeated when age appropriate. Wait the minimum interval from the invalid dose before giving the repeat dose. Minimum age/interval: At/after age 4 AND 6 months after dose 3

# Rotavirus

## Error

1. Rotavirus vaccine injected rather than given orally
2. 1<sup>st</sup> dose was inadvertently given after 14 weeks, 6 days (maximum age to start the series)
3. Any dose after 8 months, 0 days (maximum age)

## Now What?

1. The dose does NOT count. Re-administer ORALLY ASAP.
2. The dose counts. Administer the remaining doses of the series at the routinely recommended intervals. The timing of the first dose should not affect the safety and efficacy of the remaining doses.
3. Rotavirus vaccine should not be given after 8 months, 0 days even if the series is incomplete.

# Varicella

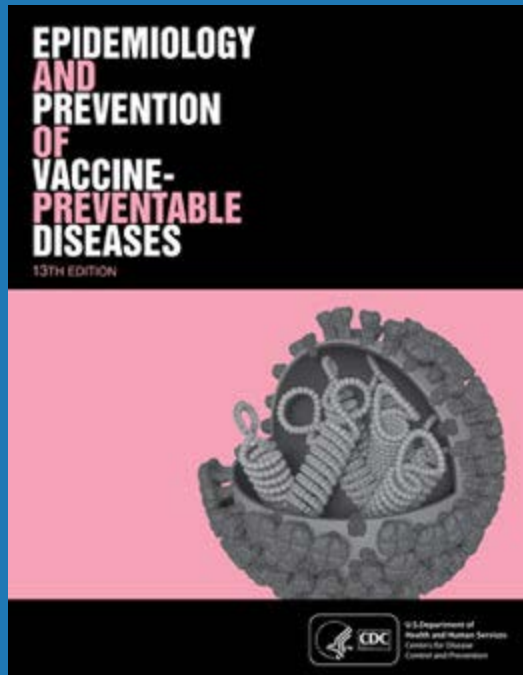
## Error

1. Wrong diluent used to reconstitute

## Now What?

1. Live, attenuated vaccine:  
If the dose can't be repeated on the same clinic day, it should be repeated no earlier than 28 days after the invalid dose.

# CDC Pink Book & Webinar Series



- Order a bound copy
- View online or download
- Online series of 15 webinars
  - Principles of vaccination
  - General recommendations
  - Immunization strategies for providers
  - Specific info on vaccine-preventable disease and the vaccines
- <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/webinar-epv/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/index.html>

# You Call The Shots

- Interactive, web-based course
- Modules that discuss VPDs and latest recommendations for vaccine use
- Continuing education credit available
- <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/youcalltheshots.html>

**Immunization:  
You Call the Shots**

**Modules**

- Understanding the Basics: General Recommendations on Immunization
- Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis
- Polio
- *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib)
- Influenza
- Hepatitis A

**Description**

*You Call the Shots* is an interactive, web-based immunization training course. It consists of a series of modules that discuss vaccine-preventable diseases and explain the latest recommendations for vaccine use. Each module provides learning opportunities, self-test practice questions, reference and resource materials, and an extensive glossary.

The course is available free of charge on the CDC Vaccines and Immunizations website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/youcalltheshots.htm>.

**Audience**


The course is intended for nurses, nursing students, medical assistants, pharmacists, and other health professionals who provide immunizations.

**CE**

Continuing education credits will be provided.

Questions or comments about the course may be e-mailed to [nipinfo@cdc.gov](mailto:nipinfo@cdc.gov).

Immunization: You Call the Shots was developed through a Cooperative Agreement between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research (APTRE).

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# IAC Resources

CDC Ask the Experts Q & A “Vaccine Administration Errors”

<http://www.immunize.org/askexperts/administering-vaccines.asp#errors>

“Don’t Be Guilty of These Preventable Errors in Vaccine Administration”

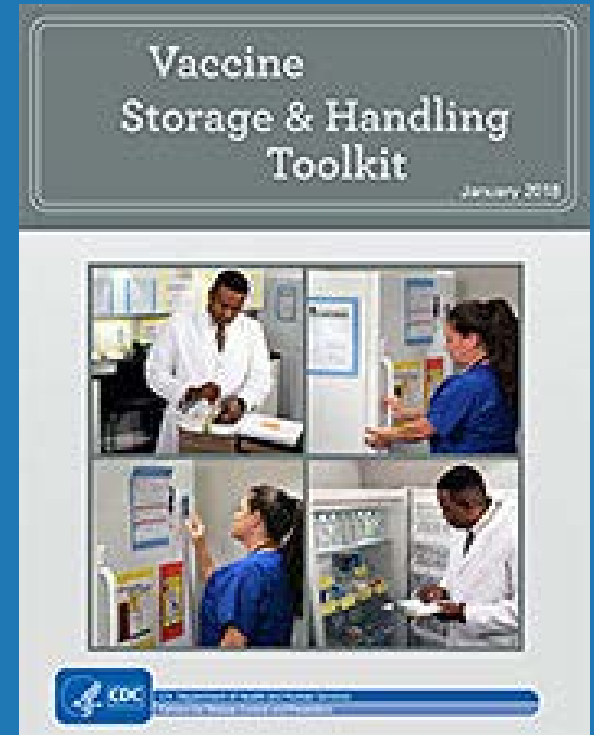
<http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3033.pdf>

“Don’t Be Guilty of These Preventable Errors in Vaccine Storage and Handling”

<http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3036.pdf>

# CDC Storage and Handling Toolkit

- Contains Best Practices for vaccine management, including preparing vaccine for administration



<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/storage/toolkit/index.html>



Questions?  
Comments?



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