

ATTACHMENT B  
B-14.14 VARICELLA AND SHINGLES  
Obtaining Varicella Biologicals

Varicella Vaccine (Varivax®)

Varicella vaccine will be stocked by the pharmacy in very limited quantities. Call the Office of Public Health at 936-437-3573 for authorization for release of the vaccine for post exposure prophylaxis.

Varivax® is a **live**, attenuated varicella-zoster vaccine indicated for the prevention of varicella. It is a lyophilized vaccine and must be reconstituted before use. It must be kept frozen. It is administered subcutaneously as a 0.5ml dose. Two doses should be given at a minimum of 4 weeks apart.

The most common adverse effects are injection site pain and fever. A generalized varicella-like rash and injection site rash may occur.

Contraindications:

- History of severe allergic reaction to any component of the vaccine (including neomycin and gelatin) or to a previous dose of varicella vaccine
- Immunodeficiency states
- Any febrile illness or active infection, including untreated tuberculosis
- Pregnancy
- Immunoglobulin should not be given concomitantly with VARIVAX. Vaccination should be deferred for at least 5 months following blood or plasma transfusions, or administration of immune globulin

Varicella Zoster Immune Globulin (VariZig®)

Call the Office of Public Health at 936-437-3571 for authorization for release of the VariZig for post exposure prophylaxis. The Pharmacy does not stock a supply and arrangements to order VariZig will need to be made with the Pharmacy.

VariZig is a purified human immune globulin made from plasma containing high levels of anti-varicella antibodies. It is lyophilized and must be reconstituted before use. It must be refrigerated. It is administered IM at a maximum dose of 625 international units (IU) for all patients weighing more than 40 Kg.

Weight of Patient		VariZig Dose		Volume to Administer (mL)
Kilograms	Pounds	IU	Number of Vials	
10.1 – 20	22.1 – 44	250	2	2.4
20.1 – 30	44.1 – 66	375	3	3.6
30.1 – 40	66.1 – 88	500	4	4.8
> 40.1	> 88.1	625	5	6

VariZig should be administered in divided doses in 2 or more injection sites. Do not exceed 3ml per injection site. It should be administered in the deltoid muscle or anterolateral aspects of the upper thigh. The most common adverse effects are injection site pain and headache. Serious adverse effects include thrombosis and severe hypersensitivity reactions.

VariZig contraindications:

- History of anaphylactic or severe systemic reactions to human globulins
- IgA-deficient patients with antibodies against IgA and a history of hypersensitivity