



Medical Health Officers  
UPDATE for Physicians

# interior health

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MHO UPDATES, go to:

[www.interiorhealth.ca/  
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Pages/MHOUpdates.aspx](http://www.interiorhealth.ca/AboutUs/Leadership/Pages/MHOUpdates.aspx)

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## An Important Message About Referring ALL Pregnant Women to Healthy From the Start

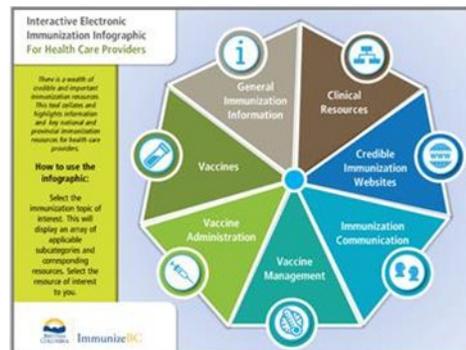
As per the notice sent to all Physicians from Dr. Perry Kendall dated February 6, 2015:

Physicians are encouraged to **refer women to public health as early in pregnancy as possible**. Public health prenatal services complement the multi-disciplinary reproductive healthcare services to support pregnant women with screening, health promotion, education, and referral to other needed health or community services (supported by resources such as Baby's Best Chance). Public health can offer vulnerable women more intensive follow-up and enhanced support services and will support women to make the healthiest choices possible in pregnancy including accessing community resources that would be of benefit. You will be notified by a Public Health Nurse if they are providing enhanced prenatal services to your patient. **Healthy from the Start** is the first point of contact for prenatal public health services in IH. Please complete and fax in the updated referral form for all of your pregnant patients.

[www.interiorhealth.ca/HealthyFromTheStart](http://www.interiorhealth.ca/HealthyFromTheStart). Or call 1-855-868-7710.

Additionally, public health across BC is currently participating in a randomized controlled trial called the **BC Healthy Connections Project (BCHCP)**. The BCHCP is a scientific evaluation, conducted by the Children's Health Policy Centre, Simon Fraser University, of the effectiveness of an intensive home-visiting program, called the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) program. NFP is designed to help disadvantaged young first-time mothers and their children. It has been proven effective in the US but has never been tested in Canada until now. PHNs will screen your referrals and offer services; potentially eligible women will then be invited to consider the BCHCP. Eligible women who consent to participate in the BCHCP will be randomly selected to receive the intensive intervention or offered other appropriate public health services based on their needs.

[ImmunizeBC](#) has developed an on-line interactive [Immunization infographic](#) for Health Care Providers. Use this “one-stop shop” to find important immunization information, and to access provincial and national immunization resources. There is also an iPhone version that will make the use of this tool a better experience for iPhone users.



## **End of One-Time HPV Cervarix® Vaccine Program**

The one-time HPV Cervarix® Vaccine Program, which started in April 2012, will end August/September, 2015 when this vaccine expires. Community vaccine providers are encouraged to follow up with clients who need to complete their vaccine series. Immunizers should continue to offer available vaccine to eligible women opportunistically. Remind clients that there is no guarantee that free vaccine will be available to complete the series; however vaccine can be purchased for any remaining doses.

## **Acting Chief Medical Health Officer**

We want to use this opportunity to thank Dr. Andrew Larder who left Interior Health in January to be closer to his family in the lower mainland after 7 years of service as the Senior Medical Health Officer. Dr. Larder helped guide our Office of the MHO through a period of significant organizational restructuring and growth, providing mentorship and support to many physicians and public health staff. We wish him all the best in his new endeavours.

Dr. Trevor Corneil will serve as Acting Chief Medical Health Officer for the region, until the organization identifies a new lead MHO.