The *Red Book* is coming to town

The *Red Book* is a product of the Committee on Infectious Diseases of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). The Committee is assisted in preparing the *Red Book* by liaising with eight other organizations and over 250 collaborators. The Committee has a permanent liaison member representing the Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS) and contributions from several CPS members. The *Red Book* is published approximately every three years. Since the publication of the first edition of the *Red Book* in 1938, there have been extensive advances in the fields of infectious diseases and immunization. During the years, these changes have been reflected in the various editions of the *Red Book*. The 2003 version, which is the 26th edition, is no exception.

The *Red Book* presents information in five sections and ten appendices. Many changes to the *Red Book* will impact all sections and these changes include: a side bar indicator to facilitate access to information, a greatly expanded number of Web sites, information from policy statements from the AAP and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and more tables and figures for easier access to information.

Section one in the *Red Book* contains important information about all aspects of active and passive immunization. New data include an expansion of the number of Web sites containing vaccine safety information, a table listing all vaccines licensed in the United States with the

appropriate handling and storage instructions for each, and a revised listing of the "2003 Standards for Child and Adolescent Immunization Practices" (previously published in 1992). In addition, a reformatted table providing data about what immunizations are needed for infants, children and adolescents who are behind schedule, and a Web link to an immunization scheduler for parents and health care professionals that will allow an individualized schedule to be printed for any child less than five years of age are included. Several new chapters and tables have been added that include the following:

- Guidelines for spacing vaccines that contain live and inactivated antigens;
- A table listing minimum ages and minimum intervals between immunization doses for each vaccine;
- A section on vaccine shortages;
- A summary of reports from the Institute of Medicine Immunization Safety Review Committee about vaccine safety;
- Information about the Brighton Collaboration which is standardizing case definitions for adverse events after immunization; and
- A section on the special needs of American Indian and Alaskan Native children.

Section two provides recommendations for the care of children in special circumstances. The chapter dealing with terrorism has been modified to only include biological agents with information presented in three concise tables including one table that provides emergency contact and educational information. The "Blood Safety" chapter has been updated to contain current information on blood screening measures implemented to ensure a safe blood supply. The "Human Milk" chapter incorporates recommendations from the soon to be published AAP statement on breastfeeding, and the "Children in Out-of-Home Child Care" chapter includes recommendations from the second edition of the AAP/American Public Health Association publication entitled "National Health and Safety

Red Book erratum

An erratum has been issued for Table 1.11, entitled "Epinephrine in the Treatment of Anaphylaxis," which appears on page 64 of the 2003 *Red Book* softcover and hardcover editions.

Under the heading "Intravenous administration," in the third sentence, 1 mg/kg or 0.01 mL/kg should be changed to 0.01 mg/kg or 0.1 mL/kg.

The complete text of this important erratum can be found on Red Book Online at <http://aapredbook.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/2003/1/E1> and a print-friendly PDF can be accessed at <http://aapredbook.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/2003/1/DC1>

The erratum will be freely accessible to all visitors to the site.

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Performance Standards". The infection control chapters include information from the hand hygiene recommendations and the chapter on sexually transmitted diseases incorporates recommendations from the 2002 CDC guidelines on management of people with sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). A new chapter entitled "Hepatitis and Youth in Corrections Settings" has been added to section two.

Section three provides summaries of infectious diseases associated with specific organisms from Actinomycosis to Yersinia. This section contains 149 chapters and constitutes approximately 60% of the total pages in the *Red Book*, exclusive of the index. All of the chapters in this section have undergone major revisions in the epidemiology, diagnosis, treatment and prevention sections. A few highlights include integration of changes in vaccine recommendations and new vaccines into appropriate chapters, and addition of recommendations from the 2002 CDC treatment guidelines for STDs. Information on the West Nile virus has been added to the Arbovirus chapter and recommendations for the prevention of perinatal Group B streptococcal disease have been updated to be consistent with the 2002 CDC guidelines, including several user friendly figures. The chapter on human immunodeficiency virus contains current recommendations for diagnosis, therapy and prevention of opportunistic infections. The influenza chapter contains AAP recommendations for use of diagnostic assays, and current data on treatment and prevention. The chapters on the respiratory syncytial virus and tuberculosis also provide new recommendations on diagnosis, treatment and prevention. Section three contains new chapters on *Kingella kingae* and smallpox in addition to a new table on human ehrlichiosis showing causative agents, vectors and geographic distribution by disease.

Section four contains tables on drugs recommended to treat infections caused by bacteria, fungi, parasites and non-human immunodeficiency viruses. The table dealing with "Drugs for Parasitic Infections" reflects the "2002 Medical Letter on Drugs and Therapeutics" recommendations. The tables on antiretroviral therapy have been condensed,

updated and reformatted for easier reference. **Section five** contains information about antimicrobial prophylaxis.

The ten **appendices** have all been updated and include one new addition, an appendix entitled "Guide to Contraindications and Precautions to Immunizations". The "Standards for Child and Adolescent Immunization Practices" (Appendix 2), last published in 1992, has been updated to reflect changes in the 2003 version. The "Directory of Services" appendix has new contact information added and the appendix listing nationally notifiable infectious diseases in the United States contains new additions since the publication of the year 2000 *Red Book*.

There are several other features of the *Red Book* that will be helpful in patient care and education:

- The *Visual Red Book* on CD-ROM which includes more than 1300 images, the complete year 2003 *Red Book* with full-text search capabilities, and many AAP and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) statements;
- *Red Book Online* which offers the complete text of the *Red Book*, the complete visual library of images from the *Visual Red Book* and which also will undergo periodic updates of information;
- *Red Book* for the personal digital assistant with the full text of the *Red Book* formatted for personal digital assistants featuring an intuitive navigational system; and
- An expanded index that permits easier access to data.

A summary of major changes in the 2003 *Red Book* appears in the front of this edition, but a full appreciation of the information contained in the *Red Book* can only be achieved by reading it from cover to cover or, more likely, by using the *Red Book* to locate specific information.

The 2003 Red Book is available from the Canadian Paediatric Society for CDN\$140.00, or CDN\$120.00 for CPS members. To order, visit www.cps.ca or call 613-526-9397.

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Internet addresses are current at time of publication. The recommendations in this statement do not indicate an exclusive course of treatment or procedure to be followed. Variations, taking into account individual circumstances, may be appropriate. This article also appears in *Paediatr Chile Health* 2003;8(7):407-408.

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