

## **FAQs CONCERNING VACCINE ADMINISTRATION**

### **What is the appropriate spacing of vaccines?**

Vaccine doses should not be administered at intervals less than the minimum intervals or earlier than the minimum age. Table 3 has these intervals for each vaccine.

### **What if a vaccine dose is given less than the minimum interval?**

ACIP recommends that vaccine doses given up to four days before the minimum interval or age be counted as valid. Doses given five days or more before the minimum age or interval must be repeated. Immunization programs and/or school entry requirements may not accept all doses given earlier than the minimum age or interval.

### **Does administering vaccines past the recommended interval mean the series must start over?**

Because available studies of extended intervals have shown no significant difference in final titer it is not necessary to restart the series or add doses because of an extended interval between doses.

### **What interval is needed between live vaccines not given simultaneously?**

If multiple live vaccines (MMR, MMRV, varicella, zoster, yellow fever, live intranasal influenza vaccine) need to be given and they are not given at the same visit they should be separated by at least four weeks. This interval is intended to reduce or eliminate interference from the first vaccine to the vaccine given later.

### **Can vaccines be administered to a patient receiving Synagis?**

Circulating antibodies to a vaccine's antigen can have an effect on vaccine response. Inactivated vaccines generally are not affected by circulating antibody to the antigen. Live attenuated vaccines may be affected by circulating antibody to the antigen. Palivizumab (Synagis), used for the prevention of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infection in infants, and young children, contains antibody directed only at RSV. This product can be given any time before or after administration of MMR, or varicella-containing vaccines.

### **Are vaccines made by different manufacturers interchangeable?**

Vaccines made by different manufacturers may differ slightly in the components, but generally can be considered interchangeable. There are some exceptions though such as some of the Hepatitis B vaccines. Most of the time, it is recommended that if at all possible, vaccines from the same manufacturer be used in the primary series.

