

How does the National Advisory Committee on Immunization operate?

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Background

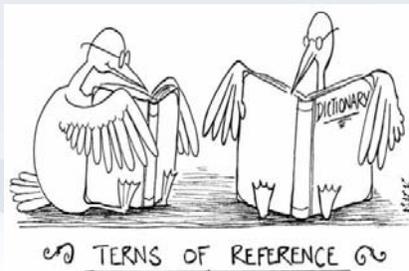
- Established in 1964 as the "National Advisory Committee on Immunizing Agents" reporting to the Dominion Council of Health
- Since 1975, reporting to ADM, Health Protection Branch
- Renamed "National Advisory Committee on Immunization" in 1978
- Since 2004 reporting to CPHO through Director IRID and CIDPC



Cette présentation a été effectuée le 26 octobre 2006, au cours du Symposium "Mettre la science au service des programmes d'immunisation, le rôle des comités d'experts" dans le cadre des Journées annuelles de santé publique (JASP) 2006. L'ensemble des présentations est disponible sur le site Web des JASP, à l'adresse <http://www.inspq.qc.ca/jasp>.

Mandate

- Provide PHAC with ongoing, timely, medical, scientific and public health advice relating to vaccines and certain prophylactic agents, related to use of vaccines in humans



Membership

- 12 voting members, with expertise in
 - Public Health
 - Clinical Infectious Diseases: pediatric and adult
 - Medical Microbiology
 - Immunology
 - Nursing Science
 - Consumer
 - 4 year term (renewable once)
- Liaison and Ex-officio:
 - professional and other associations
 - federal government



Liaison and Ex-Officio

- Advisory Committee on Causality Assessment
- Canadian Association for Immunization Research and Evaluation
- The Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease Canada
- Canadian Nursing Coalition for Immunization
- Canadian Paediatric Society
- Canadian Public Health Association
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- College of Family Physicians of Canada
- Committee to Advise on Tropical Medicine & Travel
- Community and Hospital Infection Control Association – Canada
- Council of Chief Medical Officers of Health
- Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada
- National Defence Medical Centre
- Health Products and Food Branch
- First Nations and Inuit Health Branch
- Immunization and Respiratory Infections Division

NACI Secretariat

Group of experienced program managers:

- Meeting logistics
- Dissemination of documents / information
- Communication with members
- Coordinate document review and consensus
- Respond to correspondence
- Coordinate publications
- Facilitate communicate with other committees
- Propose committee policies



WHERE and WHEN?



Expert Committee

- Prospective members submit CVs
- When vacancies arise, CVs are reviewed and member selected
- Geography and area of expertise are considered
- Members appointed by Chief Public Health Officer
- Not a “representative” but an “expert” committee



Confidentiality

- NACI members sign confidentiality agreements
- Members receive and review confidential information
 - receive proprietary information from vaccine manufacturers
- Recommendations considered confidential until approved and published
- Balance need for confidentiality with need for information at programmatic level



NACI Conflict of Interest Guidelines

- Important to avoid conflict of interests to ensure public confidence in vaccine recommendations
- Each statement includes the following preamble:
 - *"NACI members and liaison members conduct themselves within the context of the Public Health Agency of Canada's Policy on Conflict of Interest, including yearly declaration of potential conflict of interest."*
- All NACI members and liaisons complete annual conflict of interest disclosure
- Potential, perceived, and real conflicts are disclosed and assessed
- Prior to meetings, members and liaison members are requested to advise the Secretariat of conflicts of interest that have not been previously declared in relation to the agenda items



Challenges

- Achieving a reasonable balance between recruiting scientific experts with necessary expertise while avoiding potential, perceived and real conflicts
- A relatively small pool of scientific experts eligible to sit on the Committee
- Public could doubt the objectivity and integrity of PHAC and the Committee's recommendations with perceived conflicts of interests
- Provincial & Territorial governments have their own conflict of interest policy which could differ from Committee policies



Examples of Conflict of Interest Assessments

- Members should not serve as a regular expert for vaccine manufacturers advisory groups, except for clinical trials, public health research, or data monitoring boards.
- Members can provide expert advice at meetings (ad-hoc) sponsored by the manufacturer where it can be clearly demonstrated that the objectives are for scientific information sharing and not for the benefit of manufacturers commercial interests
- Members can act as an investigator or co-investigator for vaccine manufacturer sponsored clinical trials, public health research, or data monitoring board.
- Serving as a member of a planning committee for an event for which funds from industry will be solicited or accepted is acceptable upon disclosure
- Members can participate in educational sessions sponsored by a vaccine manufacturer (if in accordance with CMA guidelines) to increase knowledge and awareness on vaccine programs in Canada. The reimbursement of travel and accommodations is acceptable (if in accordance with CMA guidelines).



NACI – Deliverables

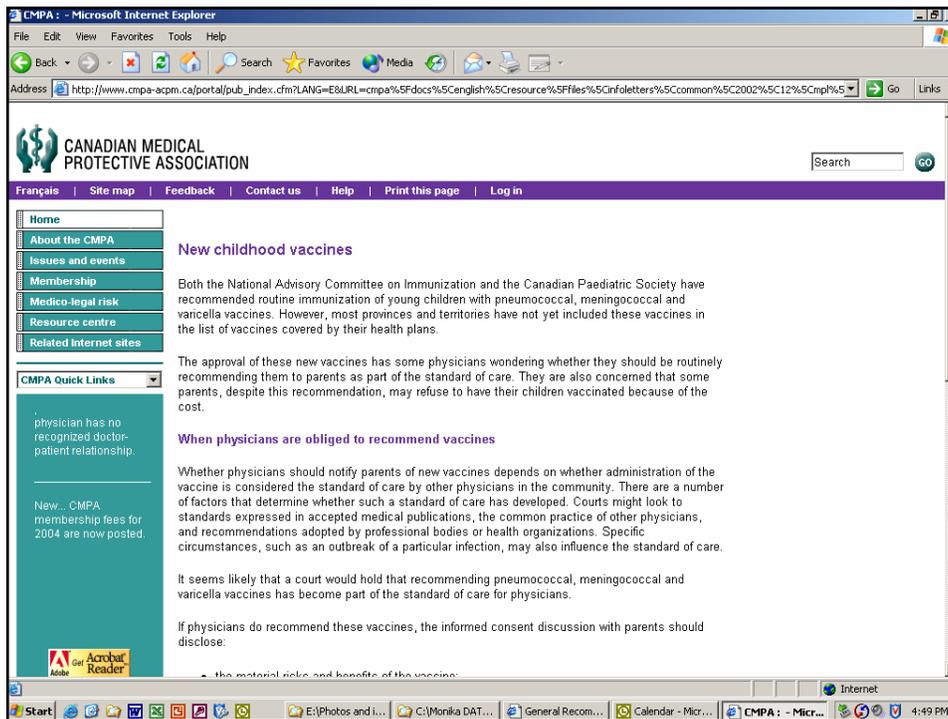
- Canadian Immunization Guide
- Vaccine Recommendations
 - CCDR
- Updates to Statements
- Correspondence



How do recommendations affect practice?

- Authoritative body
 - Evidence / Science based
 - Sets standard of care
 - Evidence:
 - P/T immunization programs
 - “standard” of practice: CMPA
 - BGTD/ product leaflet versus NACI recommendations





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Role of NACI vs CIC

<p>NACI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Expert Committee that interprets science and makes recommendations for optimal use of existing and new vaccines •Addresses: Who should receive vaccine? •Standard of Care •Approved by PHAC 	<p>CIC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •FPT committee that makes programmatic recommendations including cost benefit considerations • Considers vaccine supply, coverage, schedule harmonization, equitable access, special populations, public and professional education •Addresses: Should the vaccine be publicly funded?
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An analytical framework for immunization programs in Canada

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Allows a systematic evaluation of all the factors that should be considered in decision-making regarding immunization programs (13 categories identified)

Analytic Framework for Vaccine Decision Making: NACI vs CIC

Disease Characteristics and Burden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disease (infectious agent, mode of transmission etc.) • Epidemiology (in Canada, risk groups) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NACI
Vaccine Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficacy, effectiveness (short and long-term) • Safety: short-term, long-term 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NACI
Alternative Immunization Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedules • Age group / Risk group • Modes of delivery (physician, public health, school-based) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NACI/CIC
Social and Economic Costs and Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccine related • Disease related • Perspective (societal /individual) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIC
Feasibility and Acceptability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public • Professionals • Political 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIC
Ability to Evaluate Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccine effectiveness • Adverse events • Vaccine coverage • Disease • Screening programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIC
Research Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundamental • Intervention • Program Delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NACI/CIC
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equity • Ethical • Legal • Political 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIC
Overall Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who should receive vaccine? • Should this vaccine be publicly funded? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NACI • CIC

Role of NACI vs ACIP

NACI

- Expert Committee that interprets science and make recommendations for optimal use of existing and new vaccines
- Closed meetings
- COI declarations

ACIP

- Expert committee that makes scientific recommendations that include programmatic component (health care system and cost benefit)
- Open meetings
- COI declarations

THANK YOU