



## CHECKLIST FOR REGISTERED NURSES

### Smallpox Vaccination

As registered nurses, we are well aware that there is a pressing need to be prepared against the possibility of a bio-terrorist attack. Making the decision to be vaccinated is a difficult one and should not be made without a full understanding of the potential risks involved in receiving the vaccine.

- ✓ This is a *VOLUNTARY* decision and should be made without coercion, intimidation, or fear of job discrimination.
- ✓ The choice to be vaccinated is a personal decision that must be made based on your individual situation both at work and at home.
- ✓ This decision should be made in consultation with your primary care provider and with a full understanding of the contraindications, i.e, pregnancy, HIV/AIDs, eczema or atopic dermatitis (current and past), and any other disease that results in an immunocompromised health status.
- ✓ If you agree to be vaccinated, this should be accomplished without loss of wages or use of your personal sick or leave time.

The following is a checklist of questions that you should consider asking prior to making a decision to ensure that you are fully informed.

1. Have staff nurses been involved in the development of the policies and procedures at your facility for this voluntary vaccination plan?
2. Does your employer have a written vaccination plan and has this been shared with you for your review?
3. Have you been sufficiently educated about the vaccine, the disease and the risks associated with both?
4. Have you received adequate pre-screening and counseling to help you make an informed decision that reflects your personal and family situation? This should include access to medical testing to check for: pregnancy, HIV status, and other risk factors.
5. Have you been given a copy of the informed consent form that provides clear, understandable information about the risks and benefits of vaccination?
6. Will a trained vaccinator be available to provide the vaccination?

7. Will needles with safety features, rather than conventional bifurcated needles, be used?
8. Will there be daily, onsite monitoring of the vaccination site?
9. Is there a plan to educate and protect vulnerable patients from recently vaccinated health care workers? You may want to consider the possibility of Administrative Leave or reassignment to protect vulnerable patients from the *Vaccinia Virus*.
10. What is the plan for tracking and reporting adverse reactions? Have you been told who to contact should an adverse event occur?
11. Who will cover the medical costs should a complication from the smallpox vaccination occur? Will your health insurance cover your medical care? Will your employer cover the cost of co-payments.
12. Will household members be compensated for lost wages and/or medical care if they become ill from exposure to your vaccination?
13. Will lost work time be compensated in the event of an adverse reaction to the smallpox vaccine?

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