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Kigali,  
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REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
PO BOX 84 KIGALI  
Web site : [www.moh.gov.rw](http://www.moh.gov.rw)

**Director General, District Hospital**

Murunda	Gisenyi	Kibagabaga	Ngarama	Rutongo
Kibuye	Ruhengeri	Kacyiru	Nyagatare	Byumba
Mugonero	Shyira	Masaka	Nyamata	kinihira
Kabaya	Ruli	Rwamagana	Remera Rukoma	Kigeme
Muhororo	Nemba	Gahini	Kagbayi	Kaduha
Kilinda	Muhima	Kiziguro	Nyanza	Butaro
Kabutare	Kibirizi	Munini	Kibogoro	Kirehe
Bushenge	Gitwe	Kibungo	Gihundwe	Mibilizi
Gakoma	Rwinkwavu	RMH		

Madam / Sir,

**RE: Change in tetanus immunization for VMMC program**

WHO has recommended Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC) to be done as part of HIV prevention strategy; unfortunately, cases of tetanus have been reported in some countries that are implementing this program.

To make VMMC clients free from tetanus infection risk while seeking for circumcision service; WHO have advised countries to take measures to mitigate this risk.

In line with this recommendation, Rwanda has already adopted WHO tetanus immunization policy in the context of VMMC as follows;

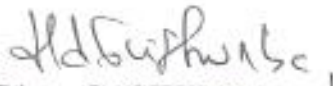
- Two doses of Tetanus Toxoid Containing Vaccine (TTCV) four weeks apart and MC to be done at least 2 weeks after the second dose if the client will be circumcised by PrePex device.
- One dose of Tetanus Toxoid Containing Vaccine (TTCV) the same day of MC if the client will be circumcised by traditional surgical method.

In addition to the risk mitigation step outlined above, we highly recommend you to enhance individual and community education on clean wound care after circumcision, which includes

clear and understandable instructions on wound care, genital hygiene and danger of applying Potentially clostridium tetani containing substances (such as animal dung poultices, herbal remedies) to wound.

Thank you for your commitment to support and provide Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC) with high standard quality of service.

Sincerely,



**Dr Diane GASHUMBA**  
**Minister of Health**



CC:

-Director General/RBC