**BLOOD PRODUCT FACT SHEET**  
**VARICELLA ZOSTER IMMUNE GLOBULIN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other Names</th>
<th>VariZIG, VZIG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Transfusion Sample</td>
<td>Not Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consent Required</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approval Requirements</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Product Description**
Varicella Zoster Immune Globulin (VariZIG™) is a sterile freeze-dried gamma globulin fraction of human plasma containing antibodies to varicella zoster virus, the causative agent of chickenpox. Solvent-detergent treated for viral inactivation. Contains no preservatives. Contains less than 40 mcg/mL of IgA.

Supplied in vials containing 125 IU (1.2 mL) of VariZIG™.
VariZIG™ is issued in a syringe by Transfusion Medicine and, if required, pooled before issue.
VariZIG™ may be given by intravenous or intramuscular administration.
Transfusion Medicine must be informed of the planned route of administration.

**Clinical Indications**
After exposure to varicella zoster virus, the VZIG may be considered for the following patient groups:
- Prevention or reduction of maternal infections within 4 days of exposure to the varicella zoster virus
- Immunocompromised individuals who have no past history of varicella or who have negative varicella titres.
- Newborns of mothers who develops chicken pox within 5 days before delivery or within 48 hours after delivery.
- Hospitalized infants in NICU exposed to varicella.

**Contraindications**
- Patients with known immunity to varicella zoster virus.
- Patients with IgA deficiency (unless the expected benefits outweigh the potential risks).
- Patients with a history of anaphylactic or other severe systemic reaction to immune globulin.
- Patients who are hypersensitive to any component of VariZIG™.

**Risks**
Pain at the injection site, headache, rash, myalgia, rigors, fatigue, nausea and flushing, allergic reactions, anaphylaxis, transmission of infection.

The following risks have been reported in association with immune globulin intravenous preparations (IGIV) but the risk is extremely low with VariZIG™ due to relative low volume of product infused: thrombotic events, renal dysfunction, transfusion related acute lung injury (TRALI).
Administration of VariZIG™ may impair the efficacy of live virus vaccines.

**Dosage**
Dosage is based on body weight. The recommended dose is 125 IU/10 kilogram body weight. The minimum dose is 125 IU and the maximum dose is 625 IU.

VariZIG™ should be administered within 96 hours of varicella exposure.
VariZIG™ should be given to a pregnant woman only if clearly needed and caution should be exercised when administered to a nursing mother.
Safety and effectiveness in the pediatric population has not been established for VariZIG™.
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#### VARICELLA ZOSTER IMMUNE GLOBULIN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weight of Patient (kg)</th>
<th>Dose in International Units</th>
<th>Number of Vials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 – 10</td>
<td>125 IU</td>
<td>1 vial = 1.2 mL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.1 – 20</td>
<td>250 IU</td>
<td>2 vials = 2.4 mL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.1 – 30</td>
<td>375 IU</td>
<td>3 vials = 3.6 mL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.1 – 40</td>
<td>500 IU</td>
<td>4 vials = 4.8 mL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 40</td>
<td>625 IU</td>
<td>5 vials = 6 mL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Administration**

Administer pre medications as ordered.

**Intramuscular Administration:**
Refer to Intramuscular Injection procedure.
- Administer by deep intramuscular injection preferably into the deltoid or the anterolateral aspect of the thigh.

**Intravenous Administration:**
- Infuse into a suitable vein over 3-5 minutes.
- Flush with enough normal saline to clear catheter (1–2 mL).

**Compatible Solution**
The manufacturer does not recommend any compatible fluids.
Flush the line before and after administration with 0.9% Normal Saline only.

**Infusion Rates**
Infusion Rate for IV administration: Infuse over 3-5 minutes

**Monitoring**
MONITOR patient for adverse effects as listed above for at least 20 minutes following administration. Mild systemic and local reactions are treated symptomatically.

**Storage Conditions**
Stored in a monitored blood product storage refrigerator at 1 – 6 ºC.
Return VariZIG™ and Transfusion Record to Transfusion Medicine within 20 minutes from time of issue if there are any delays in administration.
Do NOT refrigerate on nursing unit.

**References**