

## Vaccines for Children Provider Updates August 13, 2012

### **GRITS Users Maintenance Requirement**

To assist with order processing and to avoid delays in the transition process, all GRITS users must update your GRITS demographic data by clicking on “*Manage Site*” to include the following:

1. Add your VFC Pin# to your GRITS profile. Each VFC enrolled provider has been assigned a VFC Pin#. If you are unsure of your number, send an email to [gavfc@dhrr.state.ga.us](mailto:gavfc@dhrr.state.ga.us).
2. Review/Update Name of Clinic – Should be the name on file with VFC. For instance, Pediatric Health Center is listed as Pediatric Health Care, PC in GRITS. VFC should be notified if there is a name change that we should be aware of.
3. Update Contact Name, Number, and Email Address
4. Update Clinic's address and phone number

### **Vaccine Updates**

**Hep A and Hep B Syringes Now Available** – Merck has released Hep A and Hep B products in syringe presentation (6 doses packaging). This vaccine is now available by request. Manual reporters using the Excel spreadsheet to submit Monthly Comprehensive Reports may request Hep A or Hep B syringes by indicating their request in the “Notes” section of the order form. GRITS reporters should select preferences for the syringes on the preferences screen in GRITS.

**Pentacel Allocations** – As a reminder, we are currently monitoring Pentacel shipments to ensure that our monthly allocation allowed from the CDC is sufficient to cover our provider ordering needs. As supply is available, we will continue to ship a 3 month replenishment supply. In the event we are unable to fulfill the entire replenishment order with Pentacel, single antigen vaccine (DTaP, Hib, and IPV) will be used to supplement your order. If you wish to receive an alternate combination vaccine for the supplemented doses please note this on your manual Excel Comprehensive Report or GRITS providers may notify VFC via e-mail.

**2012-2013 Seasonal Flu** - Our first Flu allocation was released during the week of August 6. Vaccine shipments began to arrive in provider offices on August 10. As in previous years, as flu vaccine is made available to the VFC Program, orders will be placed for those providers who first pre-booked flu in back in the spring. Shipments will then be entered for providers who are on our flu wait list.

The 2012-2013 Influenza Pre-Book deadline was March 30. At this time, all flu requests will be added to the Flu Wait List and orders will be filled based on vaccine availability. The wait list link will remain active through August 31, 2012.

Please find the link to the 2012-2013 VFC Flu Wait List below:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2012VFCFLUWL>

## Immunize Georgia Conference Registration Now Open

We are so excited to announce that REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN for the 19th Annual Immunize Georgia Conference on Thursday, September 13, 2012 at the Macon Marriott City Center in Macon, Georgia! We've got some great speakers lined up for you:

\* Dr. Walt Orenstein, M.D. - Professor of Medicine, Global Health, and Pediatrics and Associate Director of the Emory Vaccine Center at Emory University

\* Dr. Paul Offit, M.D. - Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases and the Director of the Vaccine Education Center at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

\* Dr. Sandra Adamson Fryhofer, M.D., MACP - Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine at Emory University

\* Dr. Andrew Kroger, M.D. - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

These are just four of the great speakers on the agenda for our robust program. We will offer CME credits to physicians, contact hours to registered nurses and certificates of attendance for everyone else. Attached is a registration form which you can complete and email to [ImmunizeGeorgia@golinharris.com](mailto:ImmunizeGeorgia@golinharris.com) or fax to 404-681-5517. Please join us to network, hear the latest in immunization updates and support immunization services as we continue to promote awareness in Georgia.

## VFC Basics

Below are a few reminders to assist program staff with order processing

**Submit only one report per month** – Approved or “flagged” GRITS reporters should not fax a copy of their report. Special requests and short dated vaccine messages may be sent via email to [gavfc@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:gavfc@dhr.state.ga.us). Manual reporters using the Excel spreadsheet should email their report as an attachment to [gavfc@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:gavfc@dhr.state.ga.us).

**Choose one brand of vaccine per available group** - i.e. Rotarix or Rotateq, Menactra or Menveo, ActHIB or Pedvax Hib, Daptacel or Infanrix. One selection should be chosen in each vaccine category. Reports listing multiple brand choices will be processed for the brand with the highest usage totals.

**Although vaccine choice is not mandatory, please choose a preference or the vaccine you normally receive to avoid vaccine order omissions** – If your site does not select a preference in GRITS or select a choice on the manual reporting form, your office may or may not receive a replenishment order for a vaccine your office is in need of. Selecting or checking a choice ensures an order will be placed based on usage and inventory totals.

**To assist your site with cutting vaccine wastage and maintaining active enrollment in VFC, please review the following provider requirements with your staff:**

- Assess patient eligibility at every immunization visit
- Separate doses administered to Medicaid patients and PeachCare patients on the monthly report form
- Record refrigerator and freezer temperatures twice daily
- Report vaccine incidents to VFC (i.e. refrigeration failure, vaccines left out, shipment errors)
- Notify VFC of all short dated vaccine 3 months prior to its expiration

- All VFC doses must be accounted for and cannot be discarded
- Report vaccine usage and inventory **monthly**, even if little or zero doses are administered
- Record, date, vaccine manufacturer, trade name, lot number, and VIS publication date in patient records for every vaccine administered
- Maintain a completed Vaccine Emergency/Disaster Recovery Plan in an accessible location in the event of refrigerator/freezer malfunctions, natural disasters, etc. Revised recovery plan is attached to this email announcement.

## Inventory Running Low?

As a reminder, the VFC Program ships vaccine orders on a replenishment system. Providers are encouraged to store a 2-3 month supply of vaccine to avoid vaccine shortages and missed opportunities to vaccinate patients while awaiting a vaccine order. If your inventory often runs low or is depleted each month, then your inventory is not sufficient according to our order replenishment process for calculating orders. For assistance with resolving inventory issues, call VFC at 404-657-5013.

## December 2012 Transition to Mandatory GRITS Reporting

In an effort to prepare providers for electronic reporting and vaccine ordering, providers are encouraged to make the transition to monthly reporting by managing VFC/State Supplied inventory via GRITS. Many providers are currently experiencing the benefit of electronically submitting reports via GRITS and several others are in transition to electronic reporting.

### *Electronic Monthly Reporting via GRITS*

GRITS allows you to generate your monthly Comprehensive Report and transmit it electronically to VFC - all with the click of a button!

#### **How it works:**

Throughout the inventory reporting period, log all inventory-related transactions into GRITS including shipments received, immunizations administered, transfers, wasted doses, etc.

At the end of the month, count your physical VFC inventory on hand. In GRITS, click on the Count Inventory button, enter your preferences if you choose, then enter your counts. When you click Save, you have submitted your report to VFC.

It is as simple as that!

#### **Benefits of electronic reporting:**

- **Minimize vaccine replacement costs** by clearly tracking your inventory, including shortages and upcoming expiring doses
- **No more faxing** as your report is submitted when you save your counts
- **The GRITS home page keeps you informed** with programmatic updates and other useful information
- **Avoid costly lost or unaccounted for doses** with reports to manage your vaccine accountability dose-by-dose
- **GRITS training is provided** by your local Immunization Program Consultant
- **GRITS Help Desk is available daily** to answer your questions

If you choose to switch to electronic reporting, you will be trained and provided one-on-one assistance. Send your request for GRITS training to [gaimmreg@dhrr.state.ga.us](mailto:gaimmreg@dhrr.state.ga.us). Also, please contact the VFC Coordinator at [gavfc@dhrr.state.ga.us](mailto:gavfc@dhrr.state.ga.us) to be placed on the transition list.

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The VFC Administrative Office is available to assist you with your needs from 8am-5pm Monday through Friday. Providers may contact the VFC Administrative Office at (404) 657-5013 or [gavfc@dhrr.state.ga.us](mailto:gavfc@dhrr.state.ga.us). Your Immunization Program Consultant (IPC) is also available to assist you with hands on training. IPC's may be contacted by calling the VFC Administrative Office. Remember, if in doubt, call VFC, we are here to help!