

Vaccines for Children Provider Updates March 27, 2014

Programmatic Updates

In an effort to assist providers with billing systems that may require updates to include new flu vaccines and presentations for the upcoming flu season (2014-15), a list of all flu vaccine brands and presentations the Georgia VFC will distribute during the 2014-15 flu season has been included with this update.

Vaccine Updates

Pentacel®: Doses are available in minimal supply. Providers with a preference for Pentacel® will receive the amount listed on the monthly report up to 300 doses. Send requests for doses to gavfc@ehr.state.ga.us

Daptacel®, Adacel®: Supply will remain limited through March 2014. VFC will ship orders as listed on your Monthly Comprehensive Report while supplies last.

Rotateq® and Rotarix®: Both vaccines are shipping at a 2-month replenishment schedule instead of the 3-month regular interval until further notice.

Additional Vaccine Requests: Requests that exceed 10 doses above the amount listed in column J of the GRITS Accountability Report or 'Doses to Ship' column of the Excel Report will require a written justification explaining the increased need and approval

GA VFC also shared this list with GA Medicaid and GRITS staff in hopes of having all vaccines loaded in the appropriate systems prior to the start of the upcoming flu season.

2014-15 GA Flu Vaccine List with NDC and CPT Codes

CPT Group	NDC	Brand/Presentation	VFC Age
90685	49281-0514-25	Fluzone®/Quad SDS	6-35 months
90686	49281-0414-10	Fluzone®/Quad SDV	3-18 years
90656	49281-0014-50	Fluzone®/Tri SDS	3-18 years
90686	49281-0414-50	Fluzone®/Quad SDS	3-18 years
90657/90658*	49281-0394-15	Fluzone®/Tri MDV	6 mos - 18 yrs
90687/90688*	49281-0621-15	Fluzone®/Quad MDV	6 mos - 18 yrs
90686	58160-0901-52	Fluarix®/Quad SDS	3-18 years
90688	19515-0891-11	FluLaval®/Quad MDV	3-18 years
90658	19515-0893-07	FluLaval®/Tri MDV	3-18 years
90672	66019-0301-10**	FluMist®/Quad IS	2-18 years

* First CPT Code in each group should be used when the dose size is 0.25 for 6-35 months of age, and the second code in each group should be used when the dose size is 0.5 for 3 years of age and older.

** NDC Pending FDA strain approval of the 2014-15 formulation; approval is expected in July/August.

2014-2015 Flu Wait List

The 2014-2015 VFC Flu Pre-Book deadline has passed. The Flu Wait List is now available and may be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2014VFCFluWL>

A supply of influenza vaccine cannot be guaranteed for providers who did not complete the pre-book survey by the March 3 deadline. Requests for influenza vaccine submitted through the above link will be added to a wait list and will be fulfilled according to vaccine availability.

Reminder: 7th grade School Entry Requirements

Effective July 1, 2014, The Georgia Department of Public Health rule 511-2-2 requires children born on or after January 1, 2002 who are attending seventh grade, and children who are "new entrants" into eighth through twelfth grades must have one dose of Tdap vaccine **AND** one dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccination (MCV4). For additional information, brochures and flyers please contact the Georgia Immunization Office at 404-657-3158.

Back to school vaccinations are a great opportunity to increase HPV coverage in your patient population. HPV vaccine is underutilized in Georgia despite documented evidence of its safety and effectiveness. Studies show that the healthcare provider recommendation is the single best predictor of vaccination. A half-hearted recommendation to a patient may result in the patient leaving your practice unvaccinated, and may cause the patient to believe that HPV vaccine is not as important as other adolescent vaccines. We encourage providers to stock an ample supply of HPV to begin or continue the HPV series during the back to school rush. Contact VFC via email at gavfc@dhr.state.ga.us or call 404-657-5013 to order additional doses.

Providers in need of additional doses in preparation for the upcoming school rush should contact VFC by calling the main line or by sending your request via email to gavfc@dhr.state.ga.us. Additional orders will be allowed up to **100** doses over the amount listed on the report as doses presumed needed. High volume providers (as defined by VFC) will be allowed to order up to **200** additional doses over those listed to ship on the monthly report.

Certificate of Immunization (Form 3231)

Healthcare providers that utilize their own health information or practice management systems to generate the Certificate of Immunization (Form 3231) will be required to update their systems to produce the new 'Form 3231', which has a revision date of July 2014. Included with this update are several reference items for your review. Please contact the GRITS Helpline at 1-866-483-2958 for further information on training or technical assistance.

Important tips to remember

- **Submitting Monthly Comprehensive Reports is a program requirement.** Reporting is required even if zero doses are administered during the 30-day reporting period. Monthly reporting provides another level of vaccine accountability by informing VFC of vaccine usage, wastage, and current inventory levels. You may modify your orders as needed or request to receive zero doses. Failure to report is a program violation and can lead to suspension of vaccine shipments or termination from the program.
- **Select vaccine preferences prior to submitting your inventory counts.** Preference selection helps the program to reduce shipping errors and is required for the new manage orders function soon to be available in GRITS. Order processing via the new function will only allow orders for vaccines pre-selected, prior to entering inventory counts.
- **Update contact email addresses with VFC regularly.** VFC no longer communicates with providers via fax. Important messages are sent to the email addresses on file for each enrolled provider site. Several e-mailed messages return to us undeliverable indicating that we do not have current provider information on file. You may call the main office or send an email with updates for your primary and secondary contact names and email addresses to ensure receipt of program communication.

New Manage Orders Function – Training Dates March 17 – April 30

VFC has moved into the testing phase of our transition to electronic reporting via the manage orders function in GRITS. Below is the link to the training video. Designated VFC contacts (primary, secondary and backups) are required to view the video and must submit a Certificate of Completion prior to beginning use of the new manage order and transfer functions in GRITS.

As a reminder, enhancements to the current system will include:

- Manage Order Screen: Allows order adjustments to be entered directly through GRITS
- Electronic Upload of Inventory Data: Eliminates the need to enter monthly shipment received data.
- Order Tracking: Allows providers to track the process of orders placed, listed as 'Pending', 'Approved', or 'Fulfilled'

Link to online training module:

https://www.gritstest.state.ga.us/docs/ManageOrders_20FEB_2014_Final.htm

Submit a copy of your completed certificate via email to gavfc@dhr.state.ga.us or submit via fax to 1-800-372-3627. Certificates should be submitted no later than April 25, 2014.

Providers will receive additional training resources including FAQ's, a PowerPoint with snapshots of key screens from the training video and additional training opportunities in the next edition of the VFC Update.

VFC Storage and Handling Training and Re-certification Requirement

As a condition for this year's re-certification, VFC Providers must complete the Vaccine Storage and Handling and the Vaccines For Children training available on the CDC's You Call the Shots page located at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/youcalltheshots.htm>. To complete the training, click on the link, review information, then scroll to the bottom of the page to click on continue. The courses will provide you with a completion certificate at the end of the training, which should be saved and submitted with your re-certification paperwork due later in the spring.

CDC's Vaccine Storage and Handling Home Page: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/storage/default.htm>

CDC's Storage and Handling Toolkit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/storage/toolkit/storage-handling-toolkit.pdf>

Additional resources for vaccine management include:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/default.htm>, <http://www.immunize.org/>

VFC Contact for Storage and Handling Issues:

storageandhandling@dhr.state.ga.us

VFC Basics – Important Reminders

RECORD temperatures a minimum of twice per day using an NIST or ASTM certified thermometer with a current certificate of calibration. Refrigerator temperatures should remain between 35°- 46° Fahrenheit and 2°- 8° Celsius. Freezer temperatures should remain between 5° or colder Fahrenheit and -15° or colder Celsius. Temperature excursions outside of the required range should be reported to VFC immediately!

VERIFY AND DOCUMENT eligibility status for each patient during each immunization encounter. Be sure to differentiate between Medicaid and PeachCare CMO (Amerigroup, Peach State, and Wellcare). The two should be reported separately on the GRITS and the manual Excel reporting form.

RECORD date, vaccine manufacturer, trade name, lot number, and VIS publication date in patient records for every vaccine administered

REPORT doses administered to Medicaid patients separately from doses administered to PeachCare for Kids® patients. Doses administered to PeachCare for Kids® patients should be reported in the PeachCare column of the manual report.

REPORT usage, inventory, and wastage monthly via GRITS. Monthly reports are used to replenish vaccine shipments based on usage and inventory totals. Replenishment totals are based on a 3-month storage cushion and is calculated as follows:

Usage x 3 months – Inventory = # of doses to ship/doses presumed needed

Note** Always review your GRITS Vaccine Accountability Report, Column 'J' for 'Doses Presumed Needed'. Review your manual Excel report for 'Doses to Ship'. Contact VFC immediately to modify amounts to maintain a 2-3 month vaccine supply. Email requests to gavfc@dhr.state.ga.us or call (404) 657-5013.

REVIEW GRITS monthly reports for errors presented as doses listed in the "Insured/Ineligible" column and doses listed as (-) or (over) on the Vaccine Accountability Statement. Submit a copy of the report and a written explanation of errors by fax or email to avoid shipping delays.

REPORT short dated vaccines 90 days prior to their expiration date. Per the VFC Loss Policy, providers are required to report expiring vaccines 90 days prior to expiration.

RETURN wasted and/or expired doses to McKesson within 6 months of expiration. VFC vaccine should not be discarded. Exemptions to this rule include expired/wasted multi-dose vials or expired/wasted syringes. Both however, must be reported monthly.

MAINTAIN a completed Vaccine Emergency/Disaster Recovery Plan in an accessible location in the event of refrigerator/freezer malfunctions, natural disasters, etc.

NOTIFY VFC of changes in staff, vacation, power outages, address change, etc. Physicians and nursing staff signed to the provider agreement are responsible for notifying VFC of any changes that may affect vaccine shipments.

REVIEW CDC guidelines for Storage and Handling and set protocols in place to ensure effectiveness of vaccine administered to patients.

The VFC Administrative Office is available to assist you with your needs at (404) 657-5013 or via email sent to gavfc@dhr.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 Office. Remember, if in doubt, call VFC, we are here to help!