

Vaccines for Children Provider Updates October 23, 2014

Vaccine Updates

Kinrix® Syringes: Currently out of stock. Alternate choice: single antigen DTaP and IPV

Vaqtia® Syringes: Currently out of stock. New 10-syringe packaging will replace the 6-syringe packaging when doses become available. Alternate choice: Havrix

Recombivax® Syringes: Currently out of stock. New 10-syringe packaging will replace the 6-syringe packaging when doses become available. Alternate choice: Engerix

Comvax®: No longer available. Please remove from your preference list in GRITS. Alternate: Single antigen Hep B and HIB.

Cervarix®: No longer available from GA VFC. Please remove from your preference list in GRITS; Alternate choice: Gardasil®

Additional Vaccine Requests: Requests that exceed 30 doses above the amount presumed needed require a written justification explaining the increased need and approval by the Deputy Director or VFC Coordinator.

Program Updates

Important Vaccine Availability Update

Providers using the new manage orders function to submit orders should be aware of important vaccine availability updates listed in the column to the left to be sure that alternate items are available for ordering from the vaccine order screen. More details are included in the Manage Orders section on page 2 of this update. This update includes information on Cervarix®.

2014-2015 Flu Season – Shipments Update

Georgia has now received and shipped all pre-booked and wait list multi-dose vial Fluzone® requests. Remaining flu presentations will continue to ship as doses become available based on pre-booked amounts and then by wait list requests submitted online or to VFC. If you have not pre-booked doses either through an online survey or via email to VFC, then you must request to be added to the secondary wait list by sending an email to DPH-GAVFC@dph.ga.gov. Providers in need of additional Fluzone® MDV's may submit requests after November 1.

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

CPT	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.

**The 2014-2015 influenza VISs are available and should replace current versions

LAIV VIS link: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/fluive.html>

IIV VIS link: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/flu.html>

21st Annual Immunize Georgia Conference Award Recipients

The Georgia Department of Public Health's Immunization Office announced the 2014 Walt Orenstein Champions for Immunization award winners and the 2014 Clay Coleman Excellence in Customer Service award winner at the 21st Annual Immunize Georgia Conference. The conference was held at the Georgia International Convention Center in College Park on September 11, 2014.

Named after Walt Orenstein, M.D., the Walt Orenstein Champion for Immunization award honors those who exemplify a standard in immunization care set forth in the Standards for Child Adolescent and Adult Immunization Practices. These standards are a national strategy to protect America's children against vaccine-preventable diseases and provide guidelines and resources to follow when providing immunizations. Orenstein achieved the highest immunization levels ever in the United States during his tenure of 26 years with the then Centers for Disease Control (CDC) focusing on infectious disease and immunizations. He later worked as the Deputy Director for vaccine-preventable diseases at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, but returned to Atlanta to renew his appointment as professor of medicine in the Department of Medicine and serve as associate director of the Emory Vaccine Center.

The 2014 recipients of the Walt Orenstein Champions for Immunization awards are:

WellStar Health System implemented a system to screen all patients for up-to-date immunizations at every visit. They also used GRITS and CoCASA to generate missing immunization reports and proactively called patients who were past due to schedule appointments, ensuring all adolescents would be vaccinated. Their exemplary dedication resulted in 15 of their offices with high children/adolescent patient populations exceeding the national and Georgia averages with regard to Tdap rates. Fourteen of which also exceeded national and Georgia averages for MCV4 rates as well. These offices are now incorporating these practices to increase HPV rates and 11 of the 15 offices already increased their series completion rates as compared to early 2014.

Spalding County Health Department (District 4) was recognized for their exemplary work to ensure preparedness for identifying and responding to outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases and working to decrease disparities in immunization coverage and access. On October 22 & 23 2013, Spalding County Health Department employees worked with 10 community partner agencies to test their county's capacity to respond to a public health event relying solely on local resources. The health department set up a drive-thru point of dispensing for county residents to receive Influenza vaccine. With a max time of 3 minutes and 15 seconds per client, 17 Health department staff members worked 12-hour shifts each day starting at 6 a.m. to successfully vaccinate 947 residents. This exercise helped them test and modify their emergency response plan while strengthening the working relationship among community partners and successfully vaccinating a large part of their community.

Monroe County Health Department (District 5-2)

For nearly 15 years, the staff of the Monroe County Health Department worked with law enforcement agencies during their training phase at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center to educate and vaccinate thousands of officers against hepatitis B, hepatitis A, influenza, tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis. In the last three and a half years, they have partnered with the Department of Corrections to reach more than 5,000 cadets from all over Georgia through an ongoing education effort during their basic correctional officer training.

Kaiser Permanente of Georgia developed performance-improvement methodologies to sustainably improve HPV vaccine series completion rates based on their front-line patient care experiences and the voices of their patients. They collaborated with their OB/GYN department and implemented a multifaceted approach to address the drivers of vaccine hesitancy in their communities improving HPV completion rates for females age 11-13 years old from 19 percent in June 2013 to 24 percent in June 2014. They employed such strategies as educational tools to providers, nurses and patients; instituting standardized office processes to ensure system level improvements; and aligning outreach to patients due for one or more health assessments with patients eligible for the HPV vaccine. Kaiser Permanente of Georgia in their efforts demonstrated 15 of the 18 Standards for Pediatric Immunization Practice.

Meredith Deas was recognized for her exceptional dedication to Christ Community Health Services Augusta (CCHSA), a Federally Qualified Health Center, in providing immunization care to pediatrics and adolescents and best exemplifies Standard 16: Providers operate with patient-oriented and community-based approaches. For the third consecutive year, Meredith led her clinic in an annual School Flu Vaccine Clinic where they provided 1,400 free pediatric flu vaccines along with immunization education to both English- and Spanish-speaking families at 12 local elementary schools over two weeks. She continually goes above and beyond to help coordinate care for patients and outreach events for the community. She is an asset to CCHSA and a benefit to the August-Richmond County community.

Tracy Kavanaugh Receives 2014 Clay Coleman Excellence in Customer Service Award

The Clay Coleman Excellence in Customer Service award is presented annually to a Georgia Immunization Program employee who exhibits excellent customer service. The award is named for Clay Coleman, who received the Service Excellence award from the Georgia Immunization Program for his commitment to provide exceptional customer service for the program from 1993 to 2006.

As program coordinator for the Georgia Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program, Tracy works tirelessly and selflessly with healthcare providers, local health departments and district perinatal hepatitis B case managers to identify hepatitis B-infected pregnant women in order to prevent the disease from spreading to newborns. Tracy's passion and innovative spirit shines in all her endeavors to educate birthing hospitals, healthcare providers, public health colleagues, and new mothers to ensure babies born to hepatitis B-infected mothers are protected through immunization.

GRITS Did You Know - GRITS Reminder/Recall Notices

In a September issue of the VFC Update, GRITS announced an upcoming campaign to increase adolescent HPV vaccinations scheduled to begin October 1. As of today, the automated system is available for sending a text message to parents of adolescents who are overdue for their 3rd dose of HPV vaccine. GRITS also continues to support reminder notices generated in letters, cards, address labels, and downloadable text files. Please see the attached document for instructions.

New Manage Orders Function Updates

We are nearing Phase 3 out of 6 of our transition to online ordering via the new manage orders function in GRITS. On August 25, the first group of providers began to submit orders online via GRITS. Phase 2 began on September 22 and Phase 3 begins on October 27. As of March 1, 2015, all VFC providers, both GRITS reporters and manual reporters will submit orders online electronically. GRITS reporters will enjoy the added benefit of accepting shipping transfers, which eliminates manual entry of shipments received into GRITS inventory counts.

Provider transition will continue to occur through February 2015. Selected providers will receive an email notification prior to the beginning of their assigned phase. Providers must quickly respond to the email with the name of the person designated to receive a new user role which will allow access to the manage orders function. Staff with current access to GRITS will be able to continue to function in GRITS as they have in the past without interruption. Excel reporters will manually enter their vaccine inventory counts into GRITS, submit their order online, and submit a copy of the Excel form to VFC for final review and to assist in approving orders submitted online.

All providers must complete the online training and submit a completion certificate prior to your transition date. Link to online training module:

https://www.gritstest.state.ga.us/docs/ManageOrders_20FEB_2014_Final_Copy.htm. Submit a copy of your completed certificate via email to DPH-gavfc@dph.ga.gov or submit via fax to 1-800-372-3627.

Selecting vaccine preferences in GRITS

All providers utilizing GRITS to submit monthly reports via GRITS and manual providers submitting inventory data and orders via the new manage orders function MUST select vaccine order preferences in GRITS prior to entering inventory counts. VFC will only ship items selected as a preference. Reports without preferences selected will experience order delays.

Pay close attention to VFC updates for guidance on updating vaccine preferences as needed based on vaccine availability. Currently the following vaccines are unavailable and an alternate vaccine must be selected: Kinrix® syringes, Recombivax® 6 dose syringes, and Vaqta® 6 dose syringes. Orders submitted for any of these vaccines using the manage orders function will be denied and alternate products will be shipped and must be manually entered into your GRITS inventory (GRITS reporters only).

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 must 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 must 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 must 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 are calculated as follows:

$$\text{Usage} \times 3 \text{ months} - \text{Inventory} = \# \text{ of doses to ship/doses presumed needed}$$

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 DPH-gavfc@dph.ga.gov 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 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 vaccine drawn up into syringes but not administered (pre-filled syringes that have not been attached to a needle for administration must be returned). However, all wasted or expired vaccines 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 (800) 848-3868 or via email sent to DPH-gavfc@dph.ga.gov. 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!