

The BackPage

Jan/Feb 2014

MenHibrix

MenHibrix is a vaccine to prevent invasive disease caused by *Neisseria meningitidis*

serogroups C and Y and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b. MenHibrix is approved for use in children 6 weeks of age through 18 months of age. When ACIP voted to add MenHibrix to the VFC program in February 2013, the ACIP stated their intention to focus the routine use of this combination vaccine among infants at increased risk for meningococcal disease. Such high risk infants include those with recognized persistent complement pathway deficiencies and infants who have anatomic or functional asplenia including sickle cell disease. MenHibrix has been added to the "special order" section of the pediatric vaccine order form. More details about children at increased risk for meningococcal disease can be found at:

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6203a3.htm?s_cid=mm6203a3_w

Vaccine Supply

Sanofi has resumed shipping of their pertussis-containing vaccines, including Daptacel, Pentacel and Adacel. They remain on allocation and supply for Pentacel will be constrained over the next several months. The order center will monitor orders for appropriateness based on monthly estimates. As a precautionary measure, CDC's allocation for ActHIB continues. Allocations are expected to continue through March 2014.

Flu Vaccine for 2013-14

Additional doses of flu vaccine are available and can be requested by contacting the order center. Please advise all staff of how to store the vaccine when it arrives and inform the Division of Immunization of office closures to avoid misdeliveries. Providers who ordered FluMist will receive information regarding MedImmune's replacement program.

Storage and Handling Tip

Colder is NOT better for storage of refrigerated vaccine. Refrigerated vaccines are damaged more by temperature excursions that are too cold! If your vaccine storage units drift outside the

recommended ranges of 35-46°F (2-8°C) for the refrigerator or above 5°F (-15°C) for the freezer, the vaccines stored in them cannot be administered without approval by the manufacturer. The manufacturer may have data to support vaccine viability when subjected to temperatures outside the recommended ranges. CDC recommends continuous thermometers that provide data on the duration of the excursion, a detail the manufacturer will want to know if an excursion occurs. ALWAYS call the manufacturer in the event of a temperature excursion. Vaccine manufacturer contact information can be found at:

http://www.immunize.org/resources/manufact_vax.asp

Holiday Preparations

Vaccine shipments from McKesson will be HELD the entire week of Christmas, and New Year's. The order center will not enter direct-ship orders to avoid deliveries from Merck during these same time periods, however a few direct-shipments might arrive. Providers should order vaccine mindful of their Holiday closures.

Emergency Plans

VVFC has implemented a vaccine replacement policy. Avoid costly mistakes by taking time to ensure each staff member is aware of what to do when vaccine arrives and when inclement weather is forecasted.

Gold Star Awards

Exceptional Immunization Rates

Childhelp, Lignum
Fuller-Roberts Clinic, South Boston
Norfolk Pediatrics, Norfolk

Outstanding VVFC Compliance

Apple Blossom Family Practice, Winchester
Associates in Pediatric Care, Hampton
Chesapeake Pediatrics-Oakbrooke, Chesapeake
Childhelp, Lignum
Children and Adolescent Clinic, Hopewell
CMG Medical Center, Heathsville
Olde Towne Medical Center, Williamsburg
Pediatric Associates of Winchester, Winchester
Pediatric Center, Hampton
Tidewater Pediatrics, PC, Portsmouth

Process Improvement

Harbour Point Behavioral Center, Portsmouth

