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Sept/Oct 2013

Vaccine Supply

New doses of Pentacel are becoming available for provider orders, however Pentacel remains on allocation.

Because of the delayed release of Pentacel, we anticipate the supply of Sanofi's hib-containing vaccines to be sufficient but tight during the month of August. As a precautionary measure, CDC began implementing new allocations for ActHIB on August 1, based on a review of recent usage patterns of this vaccine. It is anticipated that the allocations will not extend beyond August.

The Pediarix allocation has been lifted.

Flu Vaccine for 2013-14 is Shipping

Providers have been mailed confirmation of their flu order. The first doses of VVFC flu vaccine shipped during the first week of August. Please advise all staff of how to store the vaccine when it arrives and inform the VVFC program of office closures that could lead to misdeliveries.

Storage and Handling Survey - 83% Response Rate

The Division of Immunization was awarded funding to make vaccine storage and handling improvements. One component of the project was to establish a baseline of equipment currently being used by Virginia's providers. Thank you to the 720 providers who have responded! Providers who have not yet responded will be placed on vaccine ordering hold.

The second component of the project entails implementing the use of data loggers for temperature monitoring. The data logger pilots have been trained on and are using the Berlinger Fridge-tag 2 data logger. The next step will include pilot providers to activate and place the devices properly without on-site assistance, which has been successful thus far.

Returning Vaccine for Excise Tax Credit

All vaccine provided by the Division of Immunization should be returned for appropriate credit. There is a new form for federally purchased vaccine returns requiring providers to report the NDC number, which is necessary for entry in VTrckS. McKesson has informed VVFC of vaccine being returned by providers that is not entered in VTrckS. This could be due to the provider:

- 1) using the incorrect PIN on the form,
- 2) sending the vaccine to McKesson before notifying VVFC, or
- 3) the vaccine was returned to McKesson after a time lapse leading them to believe the return needed to be deleted from the system.

Report the return to the central office first, use the correct VVFC PIN on the new form with the NDC, and return the vaccine promptly via UPS after receiving the return label from McKesson. The link to the form is: http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/Epidemiology/Immunization/VFC/documents/forms/return_form.pdf

(Right click and choose save link as... to use the Adobe Fillable form feature)



Gold Star Awards

Exceptional Immunization Rates

Tidewater Childrens Associates, Suffolk

Outstanding VVFC Compliance

Advanced Pediatrics, Vienna
Appomattox Medical Center, Appomattox
Carilion Family Medicine, Radford
Carilion Family Medicine, Wytheville
Chesapeake Medical Group, Reedville
Clinch Valley Medical Center, Richlands
CMG Pediatrics, Kilmarnock
Fort Chiswell Medical Center, Max Meadows
Healthworks for Northern Virginia, Leesburg
Herndon Medical Care, Herndon
Infant, Child & Adolescent Clinic, Alexandria
Loudoun Pediatric Associates, Berryville
Pediatric Diagnostic Center, Norfolk
Pediatric Group, Woodbridge
Pediatric Partners of Hampton Roads, Chesapeake
Piedmont Pediatrics, Warrenton
Port Warwick Pediatrics, Newport News
Practice of Dr. Cho, Annandale
Practice of Dr. Jain, Wise
Preferred Pediatrics at Lee's Hill, Fredericksburg
Preferred Pediatrics at Snowden, Fredericksburg
Royal Oak Pediatric Associates, Marion
Tidewater Childrens Associates, Suffolk
Tidewater Pediatrics, Portsmouth
Tri-State Rural Health Clinic, Grundy

Process Improvement

Appomattox Medical Center has increased their adolescent vaccine coverage rate to 82%. This is a 60% increase since 2011. They began using the Virginia Immunization Information System (VIIS) in 2009 during H1N1, and continued thereafter. Appomattox Medical Center deserves recognition for purchasing stand-alone storage units and a generator, as well.

Valley Pediatric Group in Staunton has exercised great commitment to improve vaccine management and handling by mapping out a strategy to detect and resolve deficiencies through persistent communication. They provide monthly education to update vaccine management staff. The practice has had no expiration, wastage or spoilage during the year. They use a data logger to monitor vaccine temperatures which provides continuous data to ensure the cold chain has been maintained.