

Vax Facts

E-NEWS FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA IMMUNIZATION BRANCH

NOVEMBER 1, 2010

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 8

Welcome!

Thanks for subscribing to *Vax Facts*, the North Carolina Immunization Branch's e-newsletter. We hope this will help us stay connected to immunization providers across North Carolina. Feel free to share this document with whomever you choose and encourage your colleagues to subscribe. Sign up instructions are at the end of this e-newsletter.

What's the Immunization Branch Up To?

ProQuad Availability and Shipping Change: The combination vaccine MMR-V, ProQuad®, is now available to providers for as long as supplies last. This product may be administered to all children 12 months through 12 years of age who are eligible for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. The updated NCIP Coverage Criteria reflecting this change, [Effective July 1, 2010, Version Three](#), is now online. The manufacturer, Merck, has made changes to the way the MMR-V is shipped. Please refer to the [memo dated October 12, 2010](#) for complete details.

Varicella Blackout: An upcoming blackout period in shipping varicella products has been postponed. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently notified the N.C. Immunization Branch that because of changes in its vaccine ordering system, there would be a blackout period during which the CDC would not accept orders for varicella and MMR-V vaccines. This blackout period has been postponed so please continue to order varicella and MMR-V vaccines as you do normally. We will share updates with providers as soon as they become available. For more information, refer to the memos dated [October 1, 2010](#) and [September 27, 2010](#).

Program Change: As you know, The North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) has changed to a Vaccines for Children (VFC)-only program. This means only children who qualify for the VFC program may receive vaccines at no cost from the state. Additional information on the change is available on the [program change page](#) of our website.

Free Education Materials Available for Order: Visit the Immunization Branch's [Materials Request Page](#) to view, print and order programmatic and educational resources for free. Just download the order form, fill it out, and fax it to us. You'll also find two order forms with resources on special topics. Order [Flu Prevention Resources](#) and [Childhood Immunization Education Resources](#) for your office today!

NCIR Data Entry Assistance: We're offering free data entry assistance to providers located in and around **Wake, Guilford and Forsyth** counties. A trained staff member will come to your office and enter into the NCIR demographic information and historical immunizations for all the 11 and 12 year olds your practice serves. If you are interested in this service, please contact Shirelle Everett at 919-707-5905 or shirelle.everett@dhhs.nc.gov. This opportunity is provided by private grant funds and only available for a limited time, so please act quickly.

Regional Trainings: Thank you to the more than 1,100 providers who attended one of our regional trainings this summer! We look forward to seeing you next summer at the 2011 State Immunization Conference.

Program Requirements: Are You In Compliance?

New Provider Agreements and Profiles

The North Carolina Immunization Branch and the federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program require enrolled providers to update their provider profile and provider agreement every year. Your practice should have received its annual provider profile and agreement. These forms must be completed and mailed back to us by November 19, 2010.

Provider Profile

In addition to reviewing your office information, please carefully review the enrollment estimate of your patient population. Provider enrollment estimates are a critical piece in the administration of the NCIP and a requirement of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Enrollment estimates allow the Immunization Branch to:

- assist providers in vaccine ordering, avoiding over-ordering and under-ordering, both of which result in significant costs to the immunization program;
- make estimates of the active patients in our program which are used to fund new vaccines, address special populations, and identify funding needs for vaccines such as influenza, human papillomavirus (HPV), and meningococcal conjugate; and,
- provide projections which drive state and federal allocations in crisis or shortage situations, such as the Haemophilus influenzae type b (PedvaxHIB®) recall in 2007, and the H1N1 novel influenza emergency in 2009.

If there are no corrections to your profile, check the box at the top of the form. Corrections to your profile may be made by crossing out incorrect information and writing the correct information above it.

Provider Agreement

Please have your lead physician (or health director, for local health departments) sign the new agreement, verify your profile information, and return the documents to us by November 19, 2010. Lead physicians must be licensed to practice in North Carolina.

Forms should be faxed to the Branch at 1-800-544-3058 or mailed to:

North Carolina Immunization Branch

Attn: Vaccine Distribution

1917 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, NC 27699-1917

Providers not returning a signed 2011 agreement and an updated profile will be unable to order state-supplied vaccine beyond November 19, 2010. If you have problems or questions you may contact the NCIR Help Desk at 1-877-873-6247 or ncirhelp@dhhs.nc.gov.

NCIR Tips

Accepting Vaccine Shipments

Orders and transfers made through NCIR and received by providers must be accepted so that NCIR can post and track inventory properly. Follow the steps below to accept the shipment if your order, the packing slip and the contents of the shipment are identical. If your order or the packing slip doesn't match what's in the shipment, contact the Help Desk. Do not indicate a shipping error in the NCIR; this could adversely affect your inventory. Contact the NCIR Help Desk at 1-877-873-6247 or ncirhelp@dhhs.nc.gov right away.

In cases where your order, the packing slip and the contents of your shipment all match, accepting shipments in the NCIR is simple. Follow these steps:

Accepting Shipments

1. Click on Manage Transfers under the Inventory section of the menu panel.
2. The Manage Transfer screen categorizes transfers as follows:
 - Outbound Transfer: Displays transfers that are outbound from your organization.
 - Inbound Transfer: Displays transfers that are inbound to your organization. These include shipments from the state to your organization. Your orders become Inbound Transfers when they are shipped by the state to your facility.
 - Historic Transfer: Displays completed transfers.
3. To view an order, click the blue, underlined date.

Manage Transfer

Create a New Transfer...
New Transfer

Return to the Previous Screen...
Cancel

Transfer List

Outbound Transfer

Create Date	Type	Sending Org:Site	Receiving Org:Site	Ship Date	Receive Date	Return Date
06/22/2007	TRANSFER	TEST SITE HELPDESK	TEST PROVIDER			
06/14/2007	REJECTED	TEST SITE HELPDESK	Vaccine Distribution	06/14/2007	06/21/2007	06/21/2007
06/14/2007	REJECTED	TEST SITE HELPDESK	Vaccine Distribution	06/14/2007	06/21/2007	
06/18/2007	TRANSFER	TEST SITE HELPDESK	Vaccine Distribution	06/18/2007		

Inbound Transfer

Create Date	Type	Sending Org:Site	Receiving Org:Site	Ship Date	Receive Date	Return Date
06/22/2007	ORDER	Vaccine Distribution	TEST SITE HELPDESK	06/22/2007		
06/22/2007	TRANSFER	TEST PROVIDER	TEST SITE HELPDESK			
04/16/2007	ORDER	Vaccine Distribution	TEST SITE HELPDESK			
04/16/2007	ORDER	Vaccine Distribution	TEST SITE HELPDESK			

Historic Transfer (last 7 days by default)

Show by Last Updated Date From: To: Refresh List

Create Date	Type	Sending Org:Site	Receiving Org:Site	Ship Date	Receive Date	Return Date	Restock Date
06/22/2007	TRANSFER	TEST SITE HELPDESK	TEST SITE HELPDESK: OUTREACH CLINIC	06/22/2007	06/22/2007		

4. To proceed to the Receive Transfers screen (on which you may accept orders and transfers), click on the date underlined in blue in the Create Date column which corresponds with the transfer you wish to receive in Inbound Transfer. Be sure you verify the contents of your shipment. Ensure the shipment matches what is listed on the packing list and in your NCIR order.

5. At the Receive Transfer screen, you may accept the entire transfer.

Accept Transfer: To accept the entire transfer, press "Accept Transfer." Press "OK" to accept the transfer and add all transfer items into inventory.

Reject Transfer: Never reject a transfer!

Partially Accept: Only use this function if you ordered a certain amount of vaccine (100 doses of varicella vaccine, for example, and only 50 were delivered.) To accept part of the shipment, presses "Partially Accept." At the Partially Accept Transfer screen, select the amount of the vaccines you wish to accept and a rejection reason for those you wish to reject. The only reason you should indicate is "never received." If this reason does not apply, contact the Help Desk. Then press "save."

The N.C. Immunization Branch has created a flier which can help you remember what to do when a vaccine delivery arrives in your office. Log on to our website to download a [QUILT](#) flier.

Transaction reports are extremely useful tools within the NCIR. Give them a try. If you have any questions, contact the NCIR Help Desk at 1-877-873-6247 or ncirhelp@dhhs.nc.gov.

NCIR Definitions

The NCIR often uses terminology that may be new to you. Each month, *Vax Facts* will highlight some of the terms that elicit the most questions from providers. This month, we're focusing on the definition of Ordering Authority.

Ordering Authority: A person with the capability of ordering an immunization for a client; a person with ordering authority is generally the client's pediatrician or primary care provider or, within public health organizations, the medical director.

Clinician's Corner

Pneumonia

As certain patients come to you for their annual flu vaccination this season, take the opportunity to get them vaccinated against pneumococcal disease. The major clinical syndromes of pneumococcal disease are pneumonia, bacteremia, and meningitis. Each of these syndromes causes thousands of hospitalizations a year. Pneumococcal pneumonia is the most common, causing an estimated 175,000 hospitalizations a year.

Pneumococcal Pneumonia Clinical Features

- Abrupt onset
- Fever
- Shaking Chills
- Pleuritic chest pain
- Productive cough
- Shortness of breath, rapid breathing, poor oxygenation, and rapid heart rate
- Malaise
- Weakness

Pneumococcal Vaccine

There are currently two types of pneumococcal vaccines: pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV or Pneumovax) and pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV7 and PCV13 or Prevnar). PCV13 is replacing PCV7.

Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine (Pneumovax or PPSV23) Recommendations

- Adults 65 years of age or older
- Persons 2 years of age or older with

- Chronic illness
- Anatomic or functional asplenia
- Immunocompromised (disease, chemotherapy, steroids)
- HIV infection
- Environments or setting with increased risk
- Cochlear implant
- Adults 19 through 64 years of age who smoke cigarettes or who have asthma

For complete recommendations for PPSV23 vaccine refer to the CDC recommendations published in the [September 3, 2010 Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#).

Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (Prevnar or PCV13) Recommendations

The new pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, PCV13, was licensed for use in the U.S. this year. It replaces PCV7 and includes six additional serotypes, protecting against more disease than PCV7. In particular, PCV13 vaccine protects against serotype 19A, which has become the most common pneumococcal serotype and is often resistant to antibiotics.

PCV13 is recommended for:

- Children 2 months through 4 years of age
- Children 24 through 71 months of age with underlying medical conditions
- Children 6 through 18 years of age with high risk conditions.
 - A single dose of PCV13 may be administered to children 6 through 18 years of age who are at increased risk for invasive pneumococcal disease because of sickle cell disease, HIV infection or other immunocompromising condition, cochlear implant or cerebrospinal fluid leaks, regardless of whether they have previously received PCV7 or PPSV23.

[Complete provisional recommendations](#) for the use of PCV13 among infants and children can be found online.

Kudos

LHDs Managing Pertussis Outbreaks

Kudos to the counties that have been dealing with a large number of pertussis cases recently. Employees at local health departments in Henderson, Buncombe, and Cabarrus counties have been busy working to ensure pertussis doesn't spread in their areas. Kudos to you for your hard work!

2009 NIS Data is great!

Kudos to all our providers for keeping North Carolina children protected from vaccine-preventable diseases! The 2009 National Immunization Survey (NIS) results show North Carolina children are among the best-protected against vaccine-preventable diseases in the nation. The survey shows 76.7 percent of children 19 to 35 months of age are up to date on all their routine childhood immunizations. That's better than the national average of 70.5 percent. The rate gives North Carolina a fourth-place rank among states for 2009. Hib vaccine was taken out of the survey this year, due to the nationwide shortage from 2007 to 2009. The shortage is now completely resolved.

Thanks to your hard work, North Carolina families are avoiding the suffering associated with vaccine-preventable diseases.

If you would like to recognize an immunization champion with a mention in the Kudos section of *Vax Facts*, send an email to Amy Caruso at amy.caruso@dhhs.nc.gov.

Subscribe to Vax Facts

Please follow the instructions below to add yourself to our contact list.

Step One: Send an email to this address: ncip.newsletter-subscribe@lists.ncmail.net. There's no need to include any special instructions in the subject line or in the body of the email message you send.

Step Two: Respond to the system-generated confirmation email. Read this email carefully and follow the included instructions to complete the sign-up process. Please note, you must respond to this system-generated confirmation email within three days. The easiest way to complete the sign-up process is by simply replying to the confirmation email.

Step Three: Look for a system-generated welcome message. Once you receive this message, you will be signed up to receive Vax Facts.

You may unsubscribe by sending an email to: ncip.newsletter-unsubscribe@lists.ncmail.net.

Contact Information

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Help Desk • Phone: 877-873-6247 • Fax: 800-544-3058 • Email: ncirhelp@dhhs.nc.gov