

Vax Facts

E-NEWS FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA IMMUNIZATION BRANCH

May 1, 2012

Volume 3, Number 5

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 Going On In the Immunization Branch?

Vax Facts Needs Your Input!

In an effort to provide readers with the most significant content, we are asking you to complete a short survey regarding Vax Facts. The deadline to complete this survey is May 18.

The survey can be found at <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22FK3T45XAM>.

Determining Eligibility for VFC Vaccines Flow Chart

The IB has made determining eligibility for VFC vaccines a little easier with a new [flow chart](#). The chart is available on the [Additional Materials](#) page under the NCIP Requirements section of our website.

Information Right at Your Fingertips!

Did you know that the Immunization Branch website, www.immunize.nc.gov, contains a wealth of information? You can find details about the basics of vaccine preventable diseases and vaccines, and NCIR training resources on our site, as well as order free materials for your practice or patients. Be sure to review our website frequently, so that you can take full advantage of what it has to offer, as well as to stay up-to-date on what's going on in world of vaccines.

Clinician's Corner

Eligible Children Need a Supplemental Dose of PCV13

Surveillance data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggests that a large proportion of children are not receiving the 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). As a result, more than 4,000 children in the United States are diagnosed each year with invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD). Infants and the elderly bear the greatest burden of this disease.

The ACIP recommendations, published in March 2010, call for the same dosing schedule used for PCV7 (immunizations at ages two, four, and six months, with a booster dose at age 12-15 months). ACIP also recommended a single supplemental dose of PCV13 in all children ages 14-59 months who previously received an age-appropriate series of PCV7, and for use of PCV13 for the fourth dose in those who had received only

three of the four previously recommended doses of PCV7.

For children who have underlying medical conditions, a • single supplemental PCV13 dose is recommended through 71 months. This includes children who have received PPSV23 previously. PCV13 should be administered at least eight weeks after the most recent dose of PCV7 or PPSV23. This will constitute the final dose of PCV for these children (Tables 9 and 11).

PCV13 includes six additional serotypes not included in PCV7.

Health care professionals are reminded to:

- Review the immunization history of all children 14 through 59 months of age who come to the office for any reason to determine if they are eligible for the supplemental dose of PCV13. If they have not received the supplemental dose, they should be immunized with PCV13.
- Use only PCV13 vaccine. Any use of PCV7 vaccine should be discontinued even if the vaccine has not yet expired.

Are You In Compliance?

Determining Refugee Eligibility for State Supplied Vaccines

Among one of the many services that local health departments provide to newly arrived refugees includes immunizations. However, the terms "refugee" and "immigrant" are not to be confused when determining eligibility for these services.

Refugees are individuals fleeing from persecution in their homelands who have been designated for resettlement elsewhere in the world. Immigrants are simply individuals who leave one country to settle permanently in another.

Eligibility for state supplied vaccines is limited to newly arrived individuals with refugee status. The eligibility for health assessment services includes refugees, Cuban/Haitian Entrants (including Cuban parolees), Asylees, Amerasians, Certified Victims of a Severe Form of Trafficking, and Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrants. These individuals must present the local health department with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services documentation of their status.

NCIR Tips

O.R.D.E.R. Appropriately

Earlier this year, the North Carolina Immunization Program began an effort to improve verification of vaccine orders against current inventory and recent usage. In an effort to follow guidance from the federal Vaccines for Children program in order to reduce wastage and improve accountability, remember to O.R.D.E.R. appropriately!

- **O**utbound transfers must be shipped.
- **R**eceive inbound transfers.
- **D**ocument all doses administered
- **E**xpired vaccine should be removed from inventory
- **R**equ^est vaccine quantities based on suggested order quantity (Usage- Inventory On Hand = Suggested Order Quantity)

News You Can Use

NC Cervical Cancer Resource Directory Now Available: Cervical Cancer-Free NC is excited to announce the launch of the NC Cervical Cancer Resource Directory (www.cresourcedirectory.org). This comprehensive web-based directory includes county-specific information on where women who are uninsured or underinsured

can go for screening services. It also identifies the types of providers that offer HPV vaccine, and has answers to frequently asked questions. The entire site is in both English and Spanish, and can be printed easily.

Please visit and share this new resource to help connect women and adolescents to these life-saving services. For more information on the directory or to receive printed materials for distribution, please contact CCFNC at <mailto:info@ccfnc.org>. Together we can eliminate cervical cancer in North Carolina!

Outreach & Initiative Projects

Taking advantage of the recent Tdap vaccine expansion, **Coastal Children's Clinic** of New Bern is doing its part to help keep the spread of pertussis in the state at bay. The clinic has begun offering Boostrix free of charge to anyone who may come into contact with infants (parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and babysitters), as well as eliminating any administrative costs associated with receiving the vaccine.

Kudos

Dr. Kristina Simeonsson, an assistant professor in Pediatrics at the Brody School of Medicine, was recently selected to represent North Carolina as one of the CDC's Childhood Immunization Champions.

New this year, the Champion Award recognizes individuals who work at the community level by honoring them for doing an exemplary job or for going above and beyond to promote or foster childhood immunizations in their communities.

Dr. Simeonsson is an active practicing pediatrician with ECU Physicians and provides services and consultation for the Greene County Health Department. For all clients seen, she assures staff reviews immunization records, educates clients/parents on the risks and benefits of vaccines, recommends age-appropriate vaccines and provides needed vaccinations as indicated. She encourages this activity with residents through engaging them in competitive contests especially around the provision of influenza vaccine throughout the season.

Aside from her primary duties, she provides leadership to the North Carolina Immunization Program through active membership on the N.C. Immunization Advisory Committee and the N.C. Immunization Coalition. Her voice, opinions and recommendations are highly valued, respected and appreciated.

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 are signed up to receive Vax Facts.

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

Contact Information

NC Immunization Branch • 1917 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, NC 27699

Phone: 919-707-5550 • Fax: 919-870-4824 • Website: www.immunize.nc.gov

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

State of North Carolina | Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health | Immunization Branch
www.ncdhhs.gov

N.C. DHHS is an equal opportunity employer and provider. 5/12

