

# Vax Facts

E-NEWS FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA IMMUNIZATION BRANCH

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## **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?**

### **Upcoming Changes Coming to the North Carolina Immunization Program**

Effective, Oct. 1, some important federally-required changes will take place that will affect the North Carolina Immunization Program. While we do not have complete details, we do want to make you aware that the changes will impact underinsured children, as well as vaccine for insured patients. Please refer to the memos dated May 29 on the Immunization Branch website for more information.

### **Vax Facts Readership Survey**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2012 Vax Facts Readership Survey. Your input has been greatly beneficial to us, and we look forward to incorporating your ideas in upcoming issues.

### **Flu Season is Officially Over!**

Flu season is officially over. North Carolina, as with most of the country experienced a very mild influenza season.

As a reminder to influenza vaccine providers, all of the 2011-2012 influenza vaccine expired on June 30. Additional vaccine will not be available until supplies from the manufacturer for the 2012-2013 season begin to arrive (hopefully in August). To prevent vaccination errors, please take a moment to remove expired flu vaccine from your refrigerators and your NCIR inventory.

### **Are You Giving Your Patients Vaccine Information Statements?**

It is federal law that you must provide your patients with the current Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) before administering vaccine.

Developed by the staff of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), VISs provide a standardized way to present objective information about vaccine benefits and adverse events.

Current VISs can be found under the NCIP Requirements tab under the Healthcare Providers section of the Immunization Branch website.

### **National Immunization Awareness Month**

August is National Immunization Awareness Month. Stay tuned to the Immunization Branch website and next month's Vax Facts for more information.

## Information Right at Your Fingertips!

Did you know that the Immunization Branch website, [www.immunize.nc.gov](http://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.

## NCIR Tips

### Bookmarking NCIR on Your Internet Browser

You can save time getting to the North Carolina Immunization Registry (NCIR) by creating a bookmark on your internet browser.

To create a bookmark, simply type <https://ncir.dhhs.state.nc.us> into the browser bar.

At the top of the browser, select "Favorites", and then select "Add to Favorites".

Select Add.

Once you have created the bookmark, every time you open your internet browser, to access the registry, just go to the "Favorites" tab and you will find the NCIR bookmark.

## News You Can Use

### Immunization Legend Retires From CDC

After 25 years of service Dr. William (Bill) Atkinson has retired from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD). Dr. Atkinson has had a tremendous impact on the U.S. immunization program during his career, including being the point person for measles during the major resurgence of 1989 through 1991, as well as being responsible for the development of one of CDC's most widely sought-after books, *Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases* (aka the Pink Book).

### Meningitis Angels National Meningitis Photo Contest

Children ages 10-18 who receive a meningitis shot this year, and document it with a photo, have an opportunity to win some exciting prizes, including an iPad by entering the "I Took the Shot" contest, sponsored by Meningitis Angels. For complete rules visit: <http://www.meningitis-angels.org>.

## Kudos

**Betty Rogers of the Guilford County Health Department** and **Linda Greene of the Catawba County Health Department** for their outstanding work with perinatal Hepatitis B case management.

Perinatal case management consists of ensuring infants born to Hepatitis B positive women receive the Hepatitis B Immune Globulin (HBIG) at birth and the Hepatitis B vaccine series (three vaccines) by six months of age. Additionally, all infants in our prevention program are to have post-vaccination serology taken after the Hepatitis B vaccine series is completed to prove if the child is immune or infected with the Hepatitis B virus.

Betty and Linda completed perinatal case management for all infants born in 2010 that they were tracking.

## 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](mailto: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.

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