

Vaccines for Children

Program Updates

March 6, 2017

Revised Monthly Comprehensive Report for Private Providers

VFC recently added a 19+ Ineligible column to private provider Monthly Comprehensive Reports to assist the program with oversight of doses administered by program eligibility criteria. As a reminder, VFC provides vaccines for patients who meet the following criteria:

- ⇒ 18 years of age or younger
- ⇒ Medicaid enrolled
- ⇒ Uninsured: does not have insurance coverage
- ⇒ American Indian or Alaska Native as defined by the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.
- ⇒ Underinsured: A child seen in a Federally Qualified Health Care Center (FQHC) or Rural Health Care (RHC) center who has commercial (private) insurance that does not include vaccine coverage, insurance covers only selected vaccines, or insurance caps have been exceeded. This does not include patients enrolled in high deductible plans where the deductible has not been met.

The Georgia Immunization Program provides VFC enrolled sites the opportunity to administer VFC doses to the following groups through state funding and CDC collaboration with Medicaid:

- ⇒ Underinsured patients seen in a non-FQHC or RHC
- ⇒ PeachCare enrolled in one of the 3 eligible CMO's : Amerigroup, Peach State and WellCare. *Ambetter and CareSource are not currently part of the approved CMO eligibility list for state supplied vaccines.*

Patients who do not meet eligibility criteria are considered private pay or self pay and must receive vaccines from your private supply. For 19+ Medicaid patients, billing staff should be familiar with billing Medicaid for reimbursement. Failure to properly screen patients for eligibility is a violation of the VFC Provider agreement and may result in suspension from the program. For questions regarding eligibility, contact the VFC main office at (404) 657-5013.

Flu Vaccination: It's Not Too Late

The Georgia Department of Public Health Weekly Influenza Report for Week 07 (February 12 — February 18, 2017) reported high influenza-like illness activity in Georgia with widespread occurrences of sustained flu transmission. We know early immunization is the most effective, but it is not too late to get flu vaccine in March or beyond. Annual vaccination against influenza viruses remains the best strategy for preventing illness from influenza. As of early November 2016, only 37% of children aged 6 months–17 years, 37% of adults aged 18–64 years, and 57% of adults aged ≥65 years had received influenza vaccine this season. Among pregnant women, early estimates for 2016–17 indicated that only 47% had been vaccinated by early November 2016. Please continue to encourage your patients to get the flu vaccine.

<http://dph.georgia.gov/vaccines-children-program>

Vaccine Updates

Recombivax® Syringes on backorder until Spring '17. Select Recombivax vials or switch to Egenerix® as an alternate.

Vaqta® Syringes on backorder until Spring '17. Select Vaqta vials or switch to Havrix® as an alternate.

Additional Vaccine Requests: VFC will approve requests up to 30 doses over the amount listed as "doses presumed needed". Requests in excess of 30 require an email justification. Submit requests via email to dph-gavfc@dph.ga.gov.

Frozen Vaccine Storage: As of 1/1/16, household combination units cannot be used to store frozen vaccines.

Contact Us

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(404) 657-5013
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(404) 657-5736 fax
(800) 372-3627 toll free fax
DPH-gavfc@dph.ga.gov





Preteen & Teen Vaccine Awareness Week

March 13-17, 2017 is Georgia's Preteen & Teen Vaccine Awareness Week. The Georgia Immunization Program relies on our healthcare professionals and medical providers to initiate, promote, and participate in Preteens & Teens Vaccine Awareness events. Immunization rates for preteens and teens aged 11 to 18 years in the United States are far below national goals, leaving many young people unprotected against several serious but preventable diseases. We can't protect preteens and teens from everything, but we can protect them from vaccine-preventable diseases. Help promote adolescent vaccination during our state preteen and teen vaccine awareness week.

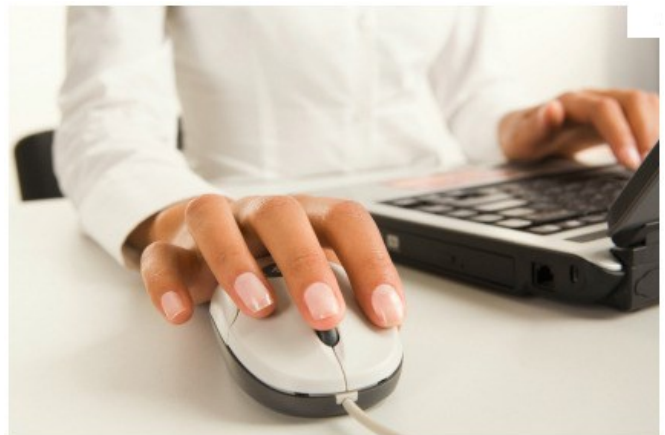
Vaccine Wastage and Returns Important Reminders

- ◆ All wasted and spoiled state supplied vaccine must be returned to McKesson. Only syringes, broken vials and open Multidose vials should be discarded in your sharps container.
- ◆ All wasted and spoiled doses must be accounted for in GRITS by modifying the vaccine inventory counts in GRITS using the wastage code which most closely relates to the reason for the wastage.
- ◆ Vaccine returns must be processed within 30 days of receiving the return invoice and return label from McKesson.
- ◆ Any pending returns that have not been completed need to be resolved ASAP. If you have vaccines sitting in cartons that need to be returned, contact the VFC Program so that we can assist you with completing the returns.
- ◆ Returns are not complete until the box is sealed and handed to the UPS driver when he/she stops by. Do not schedule a pick up.
- ◆ For more information, review the [VFC Return Protocol](#) posted on the GRITS homepage in the resource section.

GRITS Interface : Encounter Pro

Providers making the switch from Encounter Pro to a new EMR must contact a GRITS Business Analyst to test your new interface prior to going live. In the meantime, providers who have not selected a new EMR will be required to manually enter their shot data into GRITS. Important tips to remember when entering shot data:

- ◆ Jot down the lot number of the vial being administered and be sure to enter the same lot number into GRITS.
- ◆ Failure to enter the correct lot number for doses administered data will negatively effect your vaccine inventory counts and may result in reporting errors.
- ◆ Once a new EMR vendor has been selected, contact the GRITS Business Analyst at (404) 463-0808 to set up the required testing prior to your interface going live in production.
- ◆ Continue to manually enter doses administered data into GRITS during the testing phase. Once your interface is live, then manual entry will end.
- ◆ Your Vaccine Accountability Statement is a good source for determining how well your inventory is being managed both manually and for EMR interfaces. Reports with frequent negative doses is an indicator that there are data entry errors that



Storage & Handling Tips

It has been brought to our attention that many of our providers are experiencing temperature excursions when making the transition to storing frozen water bottles in their storage units. If possible, freeze water bottles in a secondary break-room freezer prior to placing in the vaccine storage unit. We suggest that you replace ice packs for frozen water bottles on a 1:1 ratio; remove 1 ice pack, replace with 1 frozen water bottle. If space permits, you may also hold on to a few ice packs just to help with regulating temperature.



A similar method applies to water bottles/jugs placed in the vaccine refrigerator, especially if using gallon sized jugs in the area where vegetable bins have been removed. Water jugs should first be placed in a breakroom refrigeration unit allowing them to cool prior to placing in the vaccine storage unit.

Vaccine Lot # 101

Many providers suffer from vaccine administration errors which result in negative doses listed in Column "I" of the Vaccine Accountability Statement. These negatives are due to errors in receiving shipments and keying in doses administered data. Below are a few tips to help eliminate errors related to lot numbers.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ◆ The lot number printed on the invoice and in the Manage Transfer details is the lot number printed on the outside of the vaccine carton.
- ◆ When receiving vaccine shipments, compare details on the packing slip to the invoice received with the shipment.
- ◆ When accepting transfers in GRITS to update your inventory count, compare the invoice details to the transfer details in GRITS.
- ◆ When adding shots administered data to your EMR or by manual entry into GRITS, use the lot number from the invoice/carton/GRITS. Failure to use the correct lot number will prevent the doses from deducting from your inventory counts.

When in doubt, contact VFC or the GRITS Help Desk for guidance which can prevent errors that may suspend your vaccine shipments.

Field Staff Changes

The Immunization Program has recently made changes to the coverage areas for field representatives formerly called Immunization Program Consultants (IPCs). Your field representatives are now Immunization Regional Consultants or IRCs. Below is the updated list of regional areas, counties covered and assigned IRC. Please note that 3 regional positions are currently vacant and will be filled in the near future.

Region 1: Rome - Immunization Regional Consultant: *Jamie Henley (Newly Hired) 470-249-4160*

Bartow, Catoosa, Chatooga, Cherokee, Dade, Fannin, Floyd, Gilmer, Gordon, Haralson, Murray, Pickens, Polk, Walker, Whitfield

Region 2: Gainesville – Immunization Regional Consultant: *Farrah Machida (470) 891-0511*

Banks, Dawson, Forsyth, Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, White

Region 3: Cobb/Douglas – *Vacant* - *Contact the VFC Program for assistance*

Cobb, Douglas, Paulding, Cherokee

Region 4: Fulton/Clayton - Immunization Regional Consultant: *Saron Ephraim (404) 387-9369*

Fulton, Clayton

Region 5: Gwinnett – *Vacant* - *Contact the VFC Program for assistance*

Region 6: DeKalb – Immunization Regional Consultant: *Janet Kelly (404) 277-2461*

DeKalb, Rockdale, Newton

Region 7: LaGrange – Immunization Regional Consultant: *Tina Dempsey (404) 277-6442*

Counties included: Butts, Carroll, Coweta, Heard, Lamar, Meriwether, Pike, Spalding, Troup, Fayette, Henry

Region 8: Dublin/Macon – Immunization Regional Consultant: *Kelly Duke (404) 277-9414*

Baldwin, Bibb, Bleckley, Dodge, Crawford, Hancock, Houston, Jasper, Jeff Davis, Johnson, Jones, Laurens, Monroe, Montgomery, Peach, Putnam, Telfair, Twiggs, Toombs, Treutlen, Washington, Wheeler, Wilkinson

Region 9: Augusta – IRC: *Shelia Fultz (404) 387-5476*

Bulloch, Burke, Candler, Columbia, Emanuel, Glascock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Lincoln, McDuffie, Richmond, Screven, Taliaferro, Warren, Wilkes

Region 10: Columbus – Immunization Regional Consultant: *Kelly Seegmueller (404) 277-3179*

Calhoun, Chattahoochee, Clay, Crisp, Dooly, Early, Harris, Lee, Macon, Marion, Muscogee, Pulaski, Quitman, Randolph, Schley, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Taylor, Terrell, Upson, Webster, Wilcox

Region 11: Valdosta, Albany – Immunization Regional Consultant: *Lisa Jenkins (404) 615-2427*

Atkinson, Baker, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brooks, Colquitt, Clinch, Coffee, Cook, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Echols, Grady, Irwin, Lanier, Lowndes, Miller, Mitchell, Seminole, Thomas, Tift, Turner, Worth

Region 12: Savannah, Brunswick, Waycross - *Vacant* - *Contact the VFC Program for assistance*

Appling, Bacon, Brantley, Bryan, Camden, Charlton, Chatham, Effingham, Evans, Glynn, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, Pierce, Tattnall, Ware, Wayne

Region 13: Athens – Immunization Regional Consultant: *Angie Webster (404) 277-8923*

Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Madison, Morgan, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Walton