

Vaccines for Children Provider Updates May 29, 2014

Programmatic Updates

ALERT: Menactra doses currently shipping from McKesson are likely to have an expiration date between 4 and 7 months for the next several months. Providers are advised to adjust orders for Menactra to avoid large shipments of this short dated vaccine. We suggest storing no more than 2 months of this vaccine at a time. Review the "Doses Presumed Needed" column of the GRITS – Vaccine Accountability Statement or the "Doses to be Shipped" column of the manual Excel report and contact VFC as needed to adjust your order. Call VFC at (404) 657-5013 or (800) 848-3868 on the day your report is submitted. Requests beyond the date the report is submitted will be honored when possible.

Vaccine Updates

Pentacel®: Providers with a preference for Pentacel® must select Pentacel® as their preference in GRITS or on the manual reporting form. Call the VFC main line to request an initial shipment at (404) 657-5013 or (800) 848-3868.

Infanrix®: Syringes have returned to supply. We expect supply to remain but in the event of future shortage of supply, Infanrix vials will ship in their place.

Rotateq® and Rotarix®: Both vaccines are shipping at a 2-month replenishment schedule instead of the 3-month regular interval until further notice.

Additional Vaccine

Requests: Requests that exceed 10 doses above the amount listed in column J of the GRITS Accountability Report or 'Doses to Ship' column of the Excel Report will require a written justification explaining the increased need and approval by the Deputy Director or VFC Coordinator.*

*excludes TDaP and MCV4 both available for increased orders due to the new 7th Grade School Requirement. See attachment included with this update for more information on the 7th grade requirement.

Annual Provider Re-Certification

VFC is gearing up for annual re-certification by updating VFC policies, provider agreement and program requirements, as well as, loading most recent provider data into the web portal used to complete the annual updates. Re-certification is scheduled for July 2014 pending approval of the aforementioned documents.

Update on Disruptions to the CDC's "You Call the Shots" Online Training

Recent updates to the CDC web server have affected access to the "You Call the Shots" (YCTS) online training. It is anticipated that this issue will be resolved in a couple of weeks. Since the VFC Program requires providers to complete this training prior to completing the annual re-certification process, providers who have not completed the YCTS Storage and Handling module may choose to complete the new "Keys to Storing and Handling Your Vaccine Supply" which contains much of the same content. This on-demand training video highlights storage and handling recommendations and best practices to help providers protect their patients. You may access the training by visiting the following link: <http://www2.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/shvideo/>

Free iTunes app provides easy access to CDC recommended immunization schedules

VFC providers and healthcare professionals can access all CDC recommended immunization schedules and footnotes using the CDC Vaccine Schedule app available immediately for iPhone users and, in a few months, for Android users. This free tool provides the most current version of child and adolescent schedules catch up schedules, contraindications and precautions table; all with

footnotes. For more information, please visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/schedule-app.html>.

Reporting Office Closures and Holiday Vaccine Order Holds

As summer approaches, please remember to notify VFC a minimum of two weeks prior to closures for vacation, staff meetings, in house training, etc. As a reminder, vaccine orders will not ship on state holidays. In some instances, we will also hold orders on the Friday preceding a holiday or on the day before or after a holiday when it falls in the middle of the week. Upcoming holiday holds include, Thursday, July 3 and July 4.

2014-2015 Flu Wait List

The 2014-2015 VFC Flu Pre-Book deadline has passed. The Flu Wait List is now available and may be accessed via the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2014VFCFluWL>. Requests for influenza vaccine submitted through the above link will be added to a wait list and will be fulfilled according to vaccine availability.

New Manage Orders Function – Revised Training & Testing Dates March 17 – May 30

VFC is still currently in the testing phase of our transition to electronic reporting via the manage orders function in GRITS. We are working out the necessary kinks to ensure that our providers experience a smooth transition. Once we are ready to “go live” with the new module, we plan to phase in providers to avoid transitioning 1200+ providers all at once. The plan is to begin with our public health departments and then groups of 200 private providers until all have transitioned.

As a reminder, enhancements to the current system will include:

- Manage Order Screen: Allows order adjustments to be entered directly through GRITS
- Electronic Upload of Inventory Data: Eliminates the need to enter monthly shipment received data.
- Order Tracking: Allows providers to track the process of orders placed, listed as ‘Pending’, ‘Approved’, or ‘Fulfilled’

Below is the link to the training video. Designated VFC contacts (primary, secondary and backups) are required to view the video and must submit a Certificate of Completion prior to accessing the new manage order and transfer functions in GRITS.

Link to online training module:

https://www.gritstest.state.ga.us/docs/ManageOrders_20FEB_2014_Final.htm

Submit a copy of your completed certificate including your VFC PIN# on the certificate via email to DPH-gavfc@dph.ga.gov or submit via fax to 1-800-372-3627.

**Certificates were due on April 25, 2014. Providers will not be allowed to transition to using the manage orders function until training is complete. Providers who have not completed the training by June 6 may be suspended from the program pending compliance.

VFC Basics – Important Reminders

RECORD temperatures a minimum of twice per day using an NIST or ASTM certified thermometer with a current certificate of calibration. Refrigerator temperatures should remain between 35°- 46° Fahrenheit and 2°- 8° Celsius. Freezer temperatures should remain between 5° or colder Fahrenheit and -15° or colder Celsius. Temperature excursions outside of the required range must be reported to VFC immediately!

VERIFY AND DOCUMENT eligibility status for each patient during each immunization encounter. Be sure to differentiate between Medicaid and PeachCare CMO (Amerigroup, Peach State, and WellCare). The two must be reported separately on the GRITS and the manual Excel reporting form.

RECORD date, vaccine manufacturer, trade name, lot number, and VIS publication date in patient records for every vaccine administered.

REPORT doses administered to Medicaid patients separately from doses administered to PeachCare for Kids® patients. Doses administered to PeachCare for Kids® patients must be reported in the PeachCare column of the manual report.

REPORT usage, inventory, and wastage monthly via GRITS. Monthly reports are used to replenish vaccine shipments based on usage and inventory totals. Replenishment totals are based on a 3-month storage cushion and are calculated as follows:

$$\text{Usage} \times 3 \text{ months} - \text{Inventory} = \# \text{ of doses to ship/doses presumed needed}$$

Note** Always review your GRITS Vaccine Accountability Report, Column 'J' for 'Doses Presumed Needed'. Review your manual Excel report for 'Doses to Ship'. Contact VFC immediately to modify amounts to maintain a 2-3 month vaccine supply. Email requests to DPH-gavfc@dph.ga.gov or call (404) 657-5013.

REVIEW GRITS monthly reports for errors presented as doses listed in the "Insured/Ineligible" column and doses listed as (-) or (over) on the Vaccine Accountability Statement. Submit a copy of the report and a written explanation of errors by fax or email to avoid shipping delays.

REPORT short dated vaccines 90 days prior to their expiration date. Per the VFC Loss Policy, providers are required to report expiring vaccines 90 days prior to expiration.

RETURN wasted or expired doses to McKesson within 6 months of expiration. VFC vaccine should not be discarded. Exemptions to this rule include expired/wasted multi-dose vials or vaccine drawn up into syringes but not administered (pre-filled syringes that have not been attached to a needle for administration must be returned). However, all wasted or expired vaccines must be reported monthly.

MAINTAIN a completed Vaccine Emergency/Disaster Recovery Plan in an accessible location in the event of refrigerator/freezer malfunctions, natural disasters, etc.

NOTIFY VFC of changes in staff, vacation, power outages, address change, etc. Physicians and nursing staff signed to the provider agreement are responsible for notifying VFC of any changes that may affect vaccine shipments.

REVIEW CDC guidelines for Storage and Handling and set protocols in place to ensure effectiveness of vaccine administered to patients.

The VFC Administrative Office is available to assist you with your needs at (404) 657-5013 or (800) 866-483-2958 or via email sent to DPH-gavfc@dph.ga.gov. Your Immunization Program Consultant (IPC) is also available to assist you with hands on training. IPC's may be contacted by calling the VFC Office. Remember, if in doubt, call VFC, we are here to help!