



## Vaccines for Children Provider Updates October 24, 2013

### Vaccine Updates

**Daptacel® and Adacel®:** Supply will remain limited through the rest of the year. Orders will be shipped as listed on your Monthly Comprehensive Report while supplies last. We cannot honor requests for doses above the amount listed. We will only place orders for reports listing a minimum of 10 doses presumed needed.

**Pentacel®:** Supply will remain limited through the rest of the year. As previously communicated, doses have been allocated as of mid October and will be shipped to providers previously contacted to receive minimal Pentacel shipments. Preferences in GRITS should reflect either single antigen doses or Pediarix® with your HIB brand preference.

**ActHIB®:** We expect to fulfill all orders as listed on your Monthly Comprehensive Report. Requests for doses above the amount listed on the report will be approved based on supply.

**CDC Resource:** Click on the following link for guidance during the current vaccine shortage:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/shortages/>

### **2013-2014 Flu Season**

Vaccine shipments began arriving in provider offices during the middle of August. We have temporarily discontinued influenza vaccine shipments to ensure adequate storage space and need in provider offices. Providers may submit requests to resume or cancel remaining shipments to [gavfc@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:gavfc@dhr.state.ga.us).

The following NDC brands and presentations are available through the VFC program during the 2013-14 Influenza season:

<u>NDC</u>	<u>Vaccine Brand/Presentation</u>	<u>IIV3/IIV4</u>	<u>Age Group</u>
49281-0113-25	Fluzone-PF/Syringes	Tri	6-35 mos
*49281-0392-15	Fluzone/Multidose Vials	Tri	6 mos - 18 yrs
49281-0013-10	Fluzone-PF/Single dose Vials	Tri	3-18 years
*49281-0013-50	Fluzone-PF/Single dose Syringes	Tri	3-18 years
58160-0900-52	Fluarix-PF/Syringes	Quad	3-18 years
66019-0300-10	FluMist/Intranasal Sprayer	Quad	2-18 years

\*Vaccine supply depleted. Doses may be available for transfer

## Education Connection

We often receive great questions worth sharing. In this Educational Connection, we are highlighting a provider question related to Immunization coverage under The Affordable Care Act.

### **Question:**

Do you know if the insurance companies in the ACA exchange are required to have immunization coverage? If they are required to cover, are immunizations exempt from the plan co-pay? If a parent buys the cheapest plan they can afford, but it has a \$5000 deductible, then parents may not be able to afford the out of pocket expense for vaccines.

### **Answer:**

Yes, individuals enrolled in these new group or individual plans will have access to the vaccines recommended by the ACIP prior to Sept. 2009 with no co-payments or other cost sharing requirements when those services are delivered by an in-network provider. These new health plans will be required to cover new ACIP recommendations made after Sept. 2009 without cost sharing in the next plan year that occurs one year after the date of the recommendation.

Click the link below for more information on the Affordable Care Act and Immunization:

<http://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/facts/factsheets/2010/09/The-Affordable-Care-Act-and-Immunization.html#>

## GRITS – Tips for finding Clients in GRITS

Sometimes searching for an existing client can be a bit of a task. Here are some tips that can help...

- If a client has been previously entered incorrectly (due to typing and/or interpretation errors), entering too much information (mother's maiden name, social security number, phone number, etc.) may decrease the odds of finding the client. To avoid those types of issues, we recommend that you supply four characters of the client's last name and three characters of the first name along with the date of birth. In case the client's name is very common, supplying a complete name, birth date, and mother's maiden name will help narrow the search.
- You may find ALL clients associated with a mother by entering only the mother's first name and maiden last name.
- Because GRITS receives birth record downloads from Vital Records, users should attempt to find a client in GRITS before entering him or her as a new client. However, if the client is entered twice and enough data exist on the original client submission, GRITS will give a "Client Match Detected" error message prior to saving the information on the "Enter New Client" screen.
- Information to use when entering infants or new clients
  - Infant's/client's first and last name
  - Infant's/client's date of birth
  - Infant's/client's gender
  - Infant's/client's mother's maiden name
  - Infant's/client's responsible party (use the mother's legal name)

\*Do not enter an infant as the responsible person\*

**\*\*Note:** The use of name substitutions when entering newborns, i.e. Baby Boy or Baby Girl result in duplicate and unmatchable immunization records once the infant is seen by a pediatrician who is unable to find the infant's record in GRITS using their official birth name.

## Manual Reporting Update (VTrckS Order Uploads)

Important tips to remember when submitting inventory counts each month:

1. Do not include prefixes and suffixes with your VFC lot numbers – Vaccine received from VFC should be entered using the lot number listed on the outer carton of the vaccine box. Providers should not include prefixes and suffixes with the lot numbers. I.e. AC52B085CA-VFC or VFC- AC52B085CA. \*\*You may add prefixes/suffixes to your privately purchased vaccine.
2. Do not fax GRITS reports to VFC – the only exception to this rule is faxed copies of corrected reports, which include an explanation of errors. If your site is transitioning from manual reporting to GRITS, contact VFC to finalize the switch today!
3. Review the Vaccine Accountability Statement for “Doses to Ship” in column J. – Orders will be entered for the preferred vaccine indicated with a # and only for items with doses listed in column J. Once you submit your order, review, and if necessary, send your vaccine order adjustments to [gavfc@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:gavfc@dhr.state.ga.us) or you may call in your order to (404) 657-5013.

### **Manual Excel Reporting no longer accepted – December 1, 2013**

VFC’s transition to total electronic reporting has been pushed back to 12/13. At that time, all providers will be required to report via GRITS and the manual Excel reporting form will no longer be accepted for processing vaccine replenishment orders. Sites currently utilizing the Excel form for monthly reporting should plan to make the switch to GRITS reporting prior to December 1 to ensure continued vaccine deliveries. Send requests for GRITS inventory management training to [gavfc@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:gavfc@dhr.state.ga.us).

## Vaccine Storage and Handling Resources

All providers should review helpful vaccine management material available via the following links:

**CDC’s Vaccine Storage and Handling Home Page**

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/storage/default.htm>

**CDC’s Storage and Handling Toolkit** - <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/storage/toolkit/storage-handling-toolkit.pdf> (Contact your Immunization Program Consultant for a hard copy)

**You Call the Shots: Vaccine Storage and Handling Module** – An interactive, web-based module that provides learning opportunities, self-test practice questions, reference and resource materials, and an extensive glossary. Continuing education credit is available.

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/youcalltheshots.htm> *NEW Feb 2013*

**Additional resources for vaccine management include:**

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/default.htm>

<http://www.immunize.org/>

**VFC Contact for Storage and Handling Issues:** [storageandhandling@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:storageandhandling@dhr.state.ga.us)

**VFC Data Logger Checklist** – Created to assist providers with the purchase of data loggers based on CDC recommendations outlined in the CDC Storage and Handling Toolkit and in anticipation of VFC equipment requirement changes targeted for January 2015 (see additional attachment included with this update)

## VFC Basics – Important Reminders

**RECORD** temperatures a minimum of twice per day. 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 should 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 should be reported separately on the GRITS and the manual Excel reporting form.

**SEPARATE** vaccine inventory by funding source:

VFC = Medicaid, No Health Insurance, Underinsured seen in Federally Qualified Health Care Centers or Rural Health Clinics (FOHCs/RHCs)

317= Underinsured patients seen in a non FOHCs/RHCs

CHIP = Peachcare CMO (Amerigroup, Peach State, and Wellcare)

*\*317 and CHIP doses may be stored together. \*VFC doses cannot be administered to a 317 or CHIP patient*

**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 is calculated as follows:

Usage x 3 months – Inventory = # 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 [gavfc@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:gavfc@dhr.state.ga.us) 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. Errors may result in delayed shipments.

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

**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 and/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 expired/wasted syringes. Both however, must be reported monthly.

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

**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.

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The VFC Administrative Office is available to assist you with your needs at (404) 657-5013 or via email sent to [gavfc@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:gavfc@dhr.state.ga.us). 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!