

Vaccines for Children Provider Updates September 6, 2013

Reminder: 20th Annual Immunize Georgia Conference

The 20th Annual Immunize Georgia Conference will take place on Thursday, September 12, 2013 at Callaway Gardens located at 17800 US Hwy 27, Pine Mountain, Georgia.

Register Now!

<http://health.state.ga.us/programs/immunization/conference.asp>

Vaccine Updates

Below is an update regarding the supply of Sanofi's pertussis-containing vaccines: Daptacel (DTaP), Pentacel (DTaP-IPV-Hib) and Adacel (Tdap). Supply for these three vaccines between mid-August and mid-October of 2013, will be lower than previously anticipated due to the delayed release of new vaccine lots. This delay resulted from an anomaly identified during a routine test procedure of one of the filling lines, and it affects all products filled from that line.

Daptacel and Adacel: Supply during September and October will be limited. Orders in September will be limited to 20 doses each for doses listed in the "Doses to Ship" (Excel Form) or the "Doses Presumed Needed" column (GRITS) while supplies last. We cannot honor requests for doses above the 20-dose maximum and will only place an order for reports listing a need of 10 or more doses.

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 not be approved.

Pentacel: As previously communicated, CDC did not allocate additional doses for the month of August and September. This message extends the period during which no additional doses of Pentacel will be available to include the first half of October.

Boostrix: Pre-filled syringes are now available. Please be sure to change your preferences in GRITS prior to counting your inventory for this month. Manual reporters must also change their preference on the Excel form.

2013-2014 Flu Season Vaccine shipments began arriving in provider offices during the middle of August. Vaccines will continue to ship according to pre-booked requests until 100% of the requested amount has shipped or until we receive an email request to discontinue shipping. Providers may submit requests to discontinue shipments to gavfc@dhc.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	Tri	3-18 years
58160-0900-52	Fluarix-PF/Syringes	Quad	3-18 years
66019-0300-10	FluMist/Intranasal Sprayer	Quad	2-18 years

Vaccines in bold are in and are currently being shipped to provider offices.

Education Connection

A VIS or Vaccine Information Statement is not an option. It is Federal law. The VIS is a document, produced by CDC that informs vaccine recipients - or their parents or legal representatives - about the benefits and risks of a vaccine they are receiving.

The appropriate VIS must be given **prior** to the vaccination, and must be given **regardless of the age** of the recipient.

In the past, healthcare providers and public health facilities interpreted federal law as a requirement that a paper copy of each VIS had to be handed to the recipient prior to vaccination, and that the recipient must take this copy away with him or her following the vaccination. Providers must still offer a copy (which can be an electronic copy) of each appropriate VIS to take away following the vaccination. However, the recipient may decline.

Electronic media has provided several new ways to provide the VIS statement information.

- VISs may be reviewed on a computer monitor (or any video display).
- VISs may be downloaded by the recipient to a smartphone or other electronic device to read at his or her convenience. (VISs have been specially formatted for this purpose.)
- VISs may be made available to be read before the immunization visit (e.g., by giving the patient or parent a copy to take home during a prior visit, or telling them how to download or view a copy from the Internet). These patients must still be offered a copy in one of the formats described previously to read during the immunization visit, as a reminder.

Current VISs can be found on the website of CDC's partner, the [Immunization Action Coalition](#)

Health care providers shall make a notation in each patient's permanent medical record at the time vaccine information materials are provided, indicating:

- (1) edition date of the Vaccine Information Statement distributed,
- (2) date the VIS was provided.
- (3) the name, address and title of the individual who administers the vaccine,
- (4) the date of administration, and
- (5) the vaccine manufacturer and lot number of the vaccine used.

Beginning in 2013, each new or updated VIS will be accompanied with a "Provider Information" document, which will summarize relevant ACIP recommendations; include more detailed information about indications, schedules, and precautions; and contain other information giving providers a quick reference to help address common patients' questions.

GRITS Did you know?

GRITS help desk isn't the only place to find HELP!

To keep our users in the know, GRITS home screen holds different list of information items.

- Announcements
 - Contains upcoming events for GRITS as well as partnering programs.
- Release Notes
 - Explains any changes and/or enhancements that are to be made to the system.

- Inventory alerts
 - When applicable, pop-ups show on the home screen alerting the provider of nearly expired vaccine.
- Resources on the web
 - Holds a variety of resources that can assist GRITS users, such as HL7 specifications, ACIP schedules (for both adults and children), and [GRITS Online Training](#).

The online training can be a good learning tool for new users of GRITS as well as a good refresher for existing users.

Other helpful items are the System User Guide, which is found under the heading “General” at the top of the left panel. Under the “Admin Support” heading there different vaccine listings listed for the user reference.

It's okay to touch the light! By clicking the yellow light bulb upper right of the screen, users will see context-sensitive online help specific to the screen the user is viewing.

Help desk hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, and users are always welcome to call with any question they may have. But keep in mind, all of the above, plus much more, is available at any time of the day, any day of the week.

VTrckS Updates

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@dhc.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@dhc.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 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 only and Medicaid PeachCare CMO (Peach State, Amerigroup, and Wellcare). The two should be reported separately on the GRITS and the manual Excel reporting form.

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 or call (404) 657-5013.

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.

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 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. Bookmark the following links as resources:

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. 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!