

Vaccines for Children Provider Updates November 6, 2014

Vaccine Updates

Infanrix® Vials and

Syringes: Currently out of stock. Alternate choice: Daptacel

Kinrix® Syringes: Currently out of stock. Alternate choice: single antigen DTaP and IPV

Vaqtta® Syringes: Currently out of stock. New 10-syringe packaging will replace the 6-syringe packaging when doses become available. Alternate choice: Havrix

Recombivax® Syringes: Currently out of stock. New 10-syringe packaging will replace the 6-syringe packaging when doses become available. Alternate choice: Engerix

Comvax®: No longer available. Please remove from your preference list in GRITS. Alternate: Single antigen Hep B and Hib.

Cervarix®: No longer available. Please remove from your preference list in GRITS. Alternate choice: Gardasil®

Additional Vaccine

Requests: Requests that exceed 30 doses above the amount presumed needed require a written justification explaining the increased need and approval by the Deputy Director or VFC Coordinator.

Program Updates

Important Vaccine Availability Update


Providers using the new manage orders function to submit orders in Phase 1-3 should be aware of important vaccine availability updates listed in the column to the left to be sure that alternate items are available for ordering from the vaccine order screen. More details are included in the Manage Orders section on page 3 of this update.

Borrowing Policy Update – Flu Vaccine

Georgia VFC's program leadership and CDC staff have held several conversations regarding borrowing of VFC flu vaccine for administration to private patients due to delayed flu vaccine shipments. CDC has informed our program that flu vaccine borrowing from VFC to Private inventories must be discontinued immediately. Borrowing that has occurred through today, November 6, 2014 will not be penalized if completed under the authorization of GA VFC Program leadership. Per CDC, "For VFC flu vaccine, unless there are highly unusual circumstances, such as a shortage of vaccine and no vaccines are on their way, VFC flu vaccines cannot be borrowed. Although the borrowing of other types of VFC vaccine may be permitted, for VFC influenza stock it can only be one-directional. That is, only private flu vaccine stock may be borrowed for VFC and replaced once VFC vaccine shipments arrive."

We are aware this will cause great disappointment with many provider sites (public and private), and pose possible challenges. However, we must comply with federal program guideline requirements as directed. Please let send any questions you have or receive regarding this situation via e-mail to: DPH-GAVFC@dph.ga.gov and we will do our best to address them directly or forward to CDC when applicable.

New Vaccine Information Statements – CDC VIS Page

All vaccine providers, public or private, are required by the National Vaccine Childhood Injury Act (NCVIA - [42 U.S.C. § 300aa-26](#)  [2 pages][↗](#)) to give the appropriate VIS to the patient (or parent or legal representative) prior to every dose of specific vaccines. The appropriate VIS must be given **prior** to the vaccination, and must be given prior to each dose of a multi-dose series. It must be given **regardless of the age** of the recipient. The following link will provide you with access to the current list of VIS statements.

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/current-vis.html>. Please enroll to receive regular VIS update announcements and to verify that your current statements are up to date. NOTE* New for 2014 - Multiple Vaccines (DTaP, Hib, Hepatitis B, Polio, and PCV13). A copy of the Multi-VIS and Instructions for the Use of Vaccine Information Statements are included with this update.

GRITS Update

As you are aware, GRITS has suffered from slow processing, outages, and recently a database failure. Upon logging in to GRITS, the following message displays:

***** ATTENTION Users: Monday, 11/3/14, GRITS experienced a database failure. As a result, ALL transactions, whether manually entered or uploaded to GRITS between midnight, Sunday 11/2/14 and 5pm Monday 11/3/14, were lost and MUST be re-entered or resubmitted. This includes, inventory reporting, client/immunization adds or updates, real time data exchange, an any other changes to GRITS data that occurred on Monday 11/3/14.**

We apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate your patience as we work to restore and stabilize the GRITS system.

VFC is aware that these outages may result in delayed data entry and submitting inventory counts. Providers will not be penalized for reports submitted past the 30-day period or the date reports are normally submitted. However, we discourage providers from waiting an additional 30 days to report. The GRITS team is working diligently to resolve issues and they will continue to work closely with the IT team responsible for GRITS maintenance on the server to ensure that GRITS will be restored to its normal operating status on a regular basis. We appreciate your patience while issues are resolved.

GRITS HPV Reminder Recall Project Update

GRITS has begun the HPV reminder project and have noticed a very small percentage of text messages sent to cell phones due to lack of data entered into the cell phone field in GRITS. Please remember to collect cell phone data when available. Also when the opportunity presents, please clarify whether the client's phone number is a cell phone or a land line and update the record accordingly.

2014-2015 Flu Season – Shipments Update

Georgia has received and shipped most pre-booked and wait listed requests. Remaining flu presentations will continue to ship as doses become available based on pre-booked amounts and then by wait list requests submitted online or to VFC. If you have not pre-booked doses either through an online survey or via email to VFC, then you must request to be added to the secondary wait list by sending an email to DPH-GAVFC@dph.ga.gov. Providers in need of additional flu vaccine may now submit requests.

2014-15 GA Flu Vaccine List with NDC and CPT Codes**

CPT	NDC	Brand/Presentation	VFC Age
90685	49281-0514-25	Fluzone®/Quad SDS	6-35 months
90686	49281-0414-10	Fluzone®/Quad SDV	3-18 years
90656	49281-0014-50	Fluzone®/Tri SDS	3-18 years
90686	49281-0414-50	Fluzone®/Quad SDS	3-18 years
90657/90658*	9281-0394-15	Fluzone®/Tri MDV	6 mos - 18 yrs
90687/90688*	49281-0621-15	Fluzone®/Quad MDV	6 mos - 18 yrs
90686	58160-0901-52	Fluarix®/Quad SDS	3-18 years
90688	19515-0891-11	FluLaval®/Quad MDV	3-18 years
90658	19515-0893-07	FluLaval®/Tri MDV	3-18 years
90672	66019-0301-10	FluMist®/Quad IS	2-18 years

* First CPT Code in each group should be used when the dose size is 0.25 for 6-35 months of age, and the second code in each group should be used when the dose size is 0.5 for 3 years of age and older.

**The 2014-2015 influenza VISs are available and should replace current versions

LAIV VIS link: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/flulive.html>

IIV VIS link: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/flu.html>

New Manage Orders Function Updates

We are nearing Phase 4 out of 6 of our transition to online ordering via the new manage orders function in GRITS. On August 25, the first group of providers began to submit orders online via GRITS. Phase 2 began on September 22 and we Phase 3 is set for October 27. As of March 1, 2015, all VFC providers, both GRITS reporters and manual reporters will submit orders online electronically. GRITS reporters will enjoy the added benefit of accepting shipping transfers, which eliminates manual entry of shipments received into GRITS inventory counts.

Providers remaining to transition will be selected at random through February 2015. Selected providers will receive an email notification prior to the beginning of their assigned phase. Providers must quickly respond to the email with the name of the person designated to receive a new user role which will allow access to the manage orders function. Staff with current access to GRITS will be able to continue to function in GRITS as they have in the past without interruption. Excel reporters will manually enter their vaccine inventory counts into GRITS, submit their order online, and submit a copy of the Excel form to VFC for final review and to assist in approving orders submitted online.

All providers must complete the online training and submit a completion certificate prior to your transition date. Link to online training module:

https://www.gritstest.state.ga.us/docs/ManageOrders_20FEB_2014_Final_Copy.htm. Submit a copy of your completed certificate via email to DPH-gavfc@dph.ga.gov or submit via fax to 1-800-372-3627.

Selecting vaccine preferences in GRITS

All providers utilizing GRITS to submit monthly reports via GRITS and manual providers submitting inventory data and orders via the new manage orders function MUST select vaccine order preferences in GRITS prior to entering inventory counts. VFC will only ship items selected as a preference. Reports without preferences selected will experience order delays.

Pay close attention to VFC updates for guidance on updating vaccine preferences as needed based on vaccine availability. Currently the following vaccines are unavailable and an alternate vaccine must be selected: Infanrix® vials and syringes, Kinrix® syringes, Recombivax® 6 dose syringes, and Vaqta® 6 dose syringes and Cervarix® are no longer available for ordering. Orders submitted for any of these vaccines using the manage orders function will be denied and alternate products will be shipped and must be manually entered into your GRITS inventory (GRITS reporters only).

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) 848-3868 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!