

Vaccines for Children Provider Updates April 9, 2015

Vaccine Updates

Boostrix® Syringes:

Currently available. Providers who switched their preferences to Boostrix® vials or another vaccine type may now select syringes as a preference.

Single Dose Vaccines Available:

Providers may order the following vaccines in increments of 1 dose as needed – TD, MenHibrix, and Pneumovax 23. Order requests are subject to approval by VFC staff.

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

Manage Transfer Data Unavailable until Monday April 12

VFC's vaccine management system (VTrckS) is down for enhancements starting today through Sunday, April 12. As a result of this blackout, providers utilizing GRITS to manage their inventory will not see inbound transfer data until Monday morning, April 13. GRITS reporters have two options: (1) manually enter inventory data or (2) wait until Monday morning to accept the transfers. If the doses are manually entered as a receipt of shipment, then the duplicate doses must be error subtracted from your inventory count once the transfers are accepted next week. As a reminder, using error subtract will result in negative doses that will appear in column I of the Vaccine Accountability Report and will require justification at the end of the reporting period. Send justifications via email to DPH-gavfc@dph.ga.gov and be sure to include your VFC PIN# in the subject line.

Return Labels Now Available for Printing via Email

Instead of waiting on the arrival of a 4x6 envelope from McKesson, providers will receive return labels via email. Starting Monday April 13, shortly after receiving a return confirmation invoice, providers will receive a return label via email from voltsupport@ups.com. The subject line for the return labels will read "UPS Shipping API". This new enhancement requires that email addresses on file remain up to date. Please be sure to regularly review your manage site screen using your manage orders login to update the email addresses for your primary and secondary contacts.

New Vaccine Update and Shipping Plan

HPV Vaccine - Recently Merck's **GARDASIL®9** was added to the routine recommendations for use of HPV vaccines. Gardasil 9 provides protection against five additional HPV types (31, 33, 45, 52 and 58). Because of the additional protection, VFC strongly suggests that enrolled providers begin transitioning to Gardasil 9 as their shipping

preference which will offer patients added protection over the previous version. During the transition period, providers should continue to use any remaining HPV vaccine in your current inventory, switch your VFC preference to Gardasil 9, and request all replenishment supply as Gardasil 9. Doses will begin shipping to VFC enrolled provider sites on May 1, 2015. VFC will continue to keep a limited supply of both HPV2 and HPV4 vaccines. For more information, visit Merck's Gardasil 9 information page found here:

<https://www.merckvaccines.com/Products/Gardasil9/Pages/home>

Meningococcal Group B Vaccine – Pfizer's meningitis B (MenB) vaccine **Trumenba**® and Novartis' MenB vaccine **Bexsero**® both received ACIP approval and is recommended for high risk patients who suffer from immune deficiencies and those in close proximity to outbreaks. VFC will ship these vaccines, by request only, to providers who serve the eligible patient population and are between the ages of 10 through 18 years. Providers' requests will require adequate justification and VFC management approval prior to vaccines being released. For more information on these vaccines, click on the following link(s):

<http://www.trumenba.com>

<http://www.bexsero.com/index.shtml>

Manage Orders/Online Ordering via GRITS

As of February 13, 2015, all VFC contacts were required to complete the GRITS Manage Orders online training and request login credentials from VFC staff for accessing the manage orders function in GRITS. As of today, several providers still have not completed the training and/or contacted VFC to request login credentials. Please note, providers cannot access the manage orders function without being assigned a new set of login credentials to be used in addition to your standard login. Once 100% of providers have been assigned logins, VFC will move the manage orders function to the standard GRITS login eliminating the need for the additional log in. Our deadline to move the manage orders function is scheduled for May. Providers who have not completed their transition to online ordering have until April 30th to request login credentials. Failure to meet this deadline will result in suspension from the program. Please contact VFC immediately if you have not received credentials to access the ordering function to avoid vaccine shipping delays. Please see page 3 of this update for more information.

Flu Season Pre-Book 2015-2016

The deadline for the 2015 VFC Influenza Pre-Book has passed. If you missed the deadline, you may submit your wait list request via the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2015VFCFLUWL>

This survey should only be completed by providers who did not submit a request prior to the February 16th deadline but wish to receive influenza vaccines for this upcoming season. Submissions to this survey will be added to our 2015-2016 VFC Influenza Vaccine Wait List.

Fulfillment of wait listed requests will begin after all pre-booked requests have been satisfied or supply for 100% of pre-booked requests has been secured. Wait Listed requests will be fulfilled according to vaccine availability. VFC cannot guarantee 100% fulfillment of all wait listed requests. Please be sure to use previous year's doses administered and billing data to determine vaccine estimates you will need to vaccinate your VFC and PeachCare eligible children 0 through 18 years of age during the upcoming flu season.

Beginning this year, each VFC Update features a VFC Provider Requirements and Guidelines Spotlight created to highlight sections of the VFC Provider Agreement, Vaccine Loss Policy, Accountability Policy and the Fraud & Abuse policy. The intent of the spotlight is to remind busy clinic staff of program requirements and to help staff better understand policies and protocols in place to ensure vaccine safety and accountability. Feel free to submit questions you would like to see addresses in this special spotlight. Send requests to DPH-gavfc@dph.ga.gov.

VFC Provider Requirements & Guidelines Spotlight: Annual Re-Certification

We are currently gearing up to kick off the annual re-certification process with our District Public Health sites starting later this month followed by hospitals and groups of private providers over a 3 month period. An email will be sent to sites notifying them of the requirements to complete the process and their group's specific deadline. Completed and signed forms must be returned 30 days from the date of the email.

To prepare for completing the re-certification process, VFC suggests that responsible contacts begin to compile data necessary to determine the number of children seen in your practice over the last 12 months by age group and eligibility. Also, please be sure to update your primary and secondary contacts information in GRITS using the manage orders function.

Age groups:

0-1
1-2
3-6
7-18

Eligibility Categories:

Enrolled in Medicaid
No Health Insurance
American Indian/Alaska Native
Underinsured in FQHC/RHC or Deputized Facility
Insured
Other Underinsured
Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

GRITS Online Manage Orders Updates

Phase 5 of our transition to online vaccine ordering via the new manage orders function in GRITS ended on February 13. As of the date of this update, all enrolled VFC sites should have completed the GRITS Manage Orders online training module and submitted a request for a new GRITS Manage Orders login to access the ordering function.

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 manually enter monthly shipment received data (for sites reporting via GRITS only)
- Order Tracking: Allows providers to track the process of orders placed, listed as 'Pending', 'Approved', or 'Fulfilled'
- Providers may update site information using the new manage orders, manage site menu option and changes will electronically update the site's profile in VFC's vaccine management database VTrckS ensuring that VFC's email distribution list remains current and sites are able to receive important program updates.

Providers who have not received a login must immediately complete the online training and contact VFC for login credentials by calling (404) 657-5013.

Tips and Reminders:

- Once assigned a manage orders user login, all future orders must be placed online
- When placing orders online, be sure to order enough vaccine to restore your stock to a 3 month supply
- Once shipments are received, log in to your standard GRITS account to accept the vaccine transfers which will automatically update your inventory counts. This means that you no longer have to manually enter your inventory into GRITS.
- Order status reminders:
 - Pending = needs review and approval by VFC. Order can be changed by the site. Orders should be in this pending state for no more than approximately 3 days.
 - In Progress = Order is being reviewed by VFC and no changes can be made by the site. If an order is 'In Progress' for more than 3 days, follow up with VFC to determine the issue.
 - Denied = Entire order denied by VFC, contact the program to resolve the issue preventing approval of the order.
 - Approved = Order reviewed and approved by VFC
 - Sent to CDC/Distributor = Order data uploaded to VFC's vaccine management database for processing and fulfillment by McKesson.
 - Partially Fulfilled = a portion of the order has delivered and transfer data is pending acceptance
 - Fulfilled = The complete order is on its way to the provider site for delivery
 - Accepted = Order complete, shipment received, transfers accepted and doses have been added to the provider's current inventory count (accepting transfers to update inventory counts is only available to providers using GRITS to manage their inventory and submit monthly reports).

VFC Basics – Important Reminders

~~NEW FOR 2014~~ STORE VFC strongly recommend frozen vaccines be stored in a pharmaceutical grade, commercial grade, or stand-alone unit. GA VFC will require providers currently using combination units to store frozen vaccines to adhere to this guideline as of January 1, 2016. More information on recommended frozen vaccine storage can be found in the CDC's Storage and Handling Toolkit by clicking on the following link <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/storage/toolkit/storage-handling-toolkit.pdf>

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 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.

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 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

~~NEW FOR 2015~~ SUBMIT orders online using the new GRITS Manage Orders function. Contact VFC to receive log in credentials if access has not been granted.

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 expiration. Per the VFC Loss Policy, providers are required to report expiring vaccines 90 days prior to expiration.

Contact Us

Georgia Vaccines for Children Program

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Atlanta, GA 30303-3142

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(800) 848-3868 toll free phone

(404) 657-5736 fax

(800) 372-3627 toll free fax

DPH-gavfc@dph.ga.gov

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

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 the 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.