

## Blastfax

### Georgia Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Now Supplying PCV 13

The Georgia VFC Program is currently making a transition from PCV 7 (Prevnar®) to PCV 13. PCV 13 is a new pneumococcal conjugate vaccine that was licensed by the FDA on February 24, 2010 and is approved for use in children 6 weeks through 71 months of age (prior to the 6th birthday). It is indicated for the prevention of invasive disease caused by 13 strains of *Streptococcus Pneumoniae*.

The ACIP has recommended that infants and children who have received 1 or more doses of PCV7 should complete the immunization series with PCV13. Children aged 12 through 23 months who have received 3 doses of PCV7 before age 12 months are recommended to receive 1 dose of PCV13, to be given at least 8 weeks after the last dose of PCV7. No additional PCV13 doses are recommended for children aged 12 through 23 months who received 2 or 3 doses of PCV7 before age 12 months and at least 1 dose of PCV13 at age  $\geq 12$  months. Also, a single supplemental dose of PCV13 is recommended for all children aged 14-59 months who have received 4 doses of PCV7 or another age-appropriate, complete PCV7 schedule. **It may be that some payors have not yet begun reimbursement for this dose.**

The full ACIP recommendation may be found at: <http://cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5909a2.htm>

The Georgia VFC Program has begun shipments of PCV 13 to enrolled provider offices. Please continue to administer PCV7 until you receive your initial supply of PVC13. Also, please submit your vaccine inventory monthly to insure you receive adequate supplies of all vaccines, including PVC13.

Once you have PCV13 in stock, the remaining doses of PCV 7 provided by the VFC Program must be returned to McKesson and will be replaced with an equivalent amount of PCV 13. Prior to returning your vaccines, please complete the McKesson Return of Federal Vaccine Form that you will receive in the mail from the VFC Program. The completed form must be included with your vaccine return to McKesson and a copy must also be sent to the Georgia VFC Program. It is very important that you complete the form accurately. Replacement orders will be generated based on the amount of vaccine that was returned to McKesson.

McKesson will be sending out return labels to all providers who have received a shipment of PCV 7 through March 2010. If you have labels, there is no need to wait on the additional labels before mailing. **All returns must reach McKesson by May 7, 2010.**

Privately purchased doses of PCV7 should be returned directly to Pfizer. Please contact your Pfizer representative for guidance on returning and replacing privately purchased vaccine.

If you have questions or need assistance please contact the VFC Program Office at 1-800-848-3868 or 404-657-5013.

*For questions or concerns regarding this blastfax or any other immunization information, please contact the Chapter's Immunization Coordinator, Mike Chaney at (404) 881-5094 or [mchaney@gaaap.org](mailto:mchaney@gaaap.org).*