

Blastfax

Messages from the Georgia Vaccines for Children Program

Additional Hiberix® Vaccine Available

During January 2010, the Georgia VFC Program began supplying Hiberix® to all VFC providers. This vaccine is licensed for use as the booster (final) dose of the Hib vaccine series for children aged 15 months through 4 years (before the 5th birthday) who have received the primary series of Hib vaccine (consisting of 2 or 3 doses, depending on the formulation). Hiberix® is **not** licensed for use in the primary Hib series.

A starter supply of 10 doses has been included in routine vaccine shipments to all VFC providers. Additional doses are now available. Please note that although the vaccine is available, current Hib supply cannot support recall efforts. Additional requests must be used for children being seen for routine visits. Once supply stabilizes, providers will be advised so that recall efforts can begin.

Providers needing additional doses of Hiberix® should indicate their request at the bottom of the monthly comprehensive report. Please be specific (ex., 'Please send 20 additional doses of Hiberix').

Also, Merck's PedvaxHIB® product is now returning to the market and providers may receive this vaccine as well. Please remember, for children receiving a combination of brands, the number of doses defaults to the higher schedule. (ex., a child receiving a combination of ActHib and PedvaxHIB will need 4 doses to fulfill the primary series.)

Male Indication for HPV Vaccine

On October 21, 2009, the ACIP voted on updated recommendations for the use of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, which included recommendations for the use of Gardasil in males. The 3-dose series of Gardasil vaccine may be given to VFC-eligible males aged 9 through 18 years to reduce their likelihood of acquiring genital warts. Ideally, vaccine should be administered before potential exposure to HPV through sexual contact.

Providers who are vaccinating VFC-eligible males should indicate their request at the bottom of the monthly comprehensive report. Please be specific (ex., 'Please send 20 additional doses of HPV vaccine').

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.